

DANIEL

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

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Daniel
Bible Study Questions

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© 2023 by Andrew M. Davis

Published by Two Journeys Ministry
414 Cleveland St,
Durham, NC 27701
www.twojourneys.org

Printed in the United States of America

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Table of Contents

<i>Preface to the Reader</i>	4
<i>Intro to Daniel</i>	5
<i>Daniel's Resolution for Holiness</i>	6
<i>Nebuchadnezzar's Dream</i>	8
<i>Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Revealed and Explained</i>	11
<i>Faith Vindicated in a Trial By Fire</i>	14
<i>God humbles Nebuchadnezzar... and Us</i>	17
<i>The Writing on the Wall</i>	21
<i>God Rescues Daniel from the Lions</i>	24
<i>The Vision of the Son of Man</i>	27
<i>The Vision of the Ram and the Goat</i>	31
<i>Daniel's Passionate Prayer for Israel</i>	34
<i>The Seventy "Weeks" of Daniel</i>	37
<i>Daniel's Overwhelming Vision of a Man From Heaven</i>	39
<i>God's Astonishing Predictions of Future Events</i>	42
<i>The End Of All Things</i>	46
<i>Why Bible Study Questions?</i>	52

Preface to the Reader

One of the most important elements of a healthy Christian life is regular study of God's word. The Psalmist writes in Psalm 19:7-8, "*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.*" I yearn for Christians to reap the rich benefits of scripture study and to grow in the knowledge and love of God's word by directly engaging with the Biblical text. This is why I have chosen to publish Bible study questions instead of commentaries. There are many valuable commentaries to aid in your study of scripture, and I recommend using them. For guidance on the best commentaries, visit www.bestcommentaries.com.

However, the focus of this book is to engage you, the reader, and to challenge you to answer relevant questions based on the scripture.

I have in mind three types of uses for this book. The first is group Bible studies. Most of these questions were written for my weekly men's Bible study. I recommend the leader use this resource to prepare beforehand, reading all the questions and picking five to seven for discussion. Twenty questions would certainly be a lot of material to discuss! For the Bible study, each participant could have a copy to follow along. The second use is sermon preparation. Asking questions of the text can be very helpful for understanding the flow and point of a passage of scripture. The third use is personal Bible study. Again, you can gain valuable insights by asking questions of the text.

My hope is that these Bible study questions would encourage and facilitate Christians' gathering together to study God's word. One day, as Habakkuk 2:14 says, "*The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*" Critical to this prophecy in Habakkuk is our *knowing* about the glory of God, and this is best achieved through the study of the Bible. So, let's do our part!

I challenge you, reader, to ask some friends, colleagues, classmates, or fellow church members to join you for a Bible study. Ask God to open your eyes to understand the scripture (Psalm 119:18) and step out in faith to spread the knowledge of the Glory of God. May this book enrich your study of God's living and active word (Hebrews 4:12) and may the Lord Jesus Christ bless your Bible studies!

Intro to Daniel

In 606 BC, when the Kingdom of Judah was exiled to Babylon, several quality young men were brought to the palace of the king of Babylon. Daniel was among them. The Book of Daniel contains narrative sections (depicting actual moments in Daniel's life), prophecies, prayers, and apocalyptic imagery. Chapters 1-6 tell the story of a godly man serving in an ungodly government. Chapters 7-12 contain the visions of Daniel, Daniel's prayer, and apocalyptic imagery.

The Book of Daniel contains 5 main themes. The first and most central message of Daniel is the absolute sovereignty of God over the rise and fall of the nations for the glory of his name, the establishment of his own Kingdom, and the benefit of his people. The main secondary message is a call to the personal holiness, piety, and courage exemplified by Daniel and his friends. The third theme is God's ability to predict the future in great detail. The fourth theme is the judgment of pagan Kings who dominate the people of God, but who refuse to repent. The fifth and final theme is a rare glimpse into the invisible spiritual world of angels and demons.

Daniel's Resolution for Holiness

Daniel 1:1-21

I. Main Questions:

1. What does this chapter teach you about the sovereignty of God?
2. What does it teach you about personal holiness?
3. What does it teach you about leadership?
4. What do you think about the validity of personal resolutions? Are they of any use in the Christian life?
5. How does 2 Timothy 2:20-21 relate to Daniel's resolution? Does God test us to see if we'll be fit for greater roles in His service?

II. Verse by Verse Questions:

1. Read 2 Kings 23:34-24:6. Who was Jehoiakim? How does 2 Kings 24:1-2 explain the events of Daniel 1:1-2? (1-2)
2. Read Jeremiah 24:1-7. How does this help explain Daniel's godliness and success in Babylon? (1-2)
3. What does verse 2 teach you about the sovereignty of God? How does Deuteronomy 32:30 help explain it? (2)
4. Why did Daniel specifically mention the articles from God's temple? (2)
5. What does King Nebuchadnezzar order Ashpenaz to do? What kind of people is he to gather? What is the King's purpose here? (3-5)
6. What does this policy show about Nebuchadnezzar? (3-5)
7. Was it permissible for Daniel to learn all the ways of the Babylonians and to seek the prosperity of the city and empire? (See Jeremiah 29:1-7)
8. What do you think was Nebuchadnezzar's purpose in giving them food from his own table? (6)
9. What is the significance of the new names they were given? (7)
10. What is the significance of Daniel's resolution to abstain from the royal food? (8)
11. Why is prior resolution to holiness essential to standing firm in temptation?
12. What other commands of God are behind this resolution? (See Lev. 20:25-26).

13. Why is self-control in food so important in the Christian life? Why is it a spiritual matter?
14. What does it show you that Daniel asked permission from the chief official in order not to be defiled by the food? If Daniel believed he would be disobeying God by eating, why did he ask permission? (8)
15. What does verse 9 teach you about the sovereignty of God over human hearts? What does it teach you about Daniel's personality? (9)
16. What was the official worried about? Was there good reason to be worried? (10)
17. What solution does Daniel propose? What does this show you about Daniel? Why is it important to have very strong convictions and also to be winsome toward outsiders? (11-13)
18. How did the test turn out? Did Daniel maintain this diet for the rest of his life? (See Daniel 10:3)
19. How did God bless Daniel and his friends because of their resolution? (17-20)
20. What special ability did God give Daniel? (17)
21. What does this show you about academic or professional success?
22. What does verse 21 teach you about how Daniel fits into history? (See Isaiah 44:28 & 45:13; also, Ezra 1:1-7; 2 Chronicles 36:22-23)

III. Summary:

God sovereignly gave Jerusalem into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, but raised up Daniel, one of the exiles, to be holy and to lead for his purposes in Babylon. Daniel's resolution not to be defiled by food was key to his future role.

IV. Application:

1. What resolutions do you think God could lead you to make to prepare you for greater usefulness in His service?
2. How does Daniel's example help you serve God in your generation?

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Daniel 2:1-23

I. Main Questions:

1. Why are people so interested in the future?
2. What does this passage teach us about the sovereignty of God?
3. What does this passage teach us about human nature, both good and bad?
4. At the very end of the movie, "Patton," the following quote was read. Discuss how Daniel 2 addresses the themes of this statement:

"For over a thousand years Roman conquerors returning from the wars enjoyed the honor of a triumph, a tumultuous parade. In the procession came trumpeters and musicians and strange animals from the conquered territories, together with carts laden with treasure and captured armaments.

The conqueror rode in a triumphal chariot, the dazed prisoners walking in chains before him. Sometimes his children, robed in white, stood with him in the chariot or rode the trace horses.

A slave stood behind the conqueror, holding a golden crown and whispering in his ear a warning: 'All glory is fleeting!'"¹

II. Verse by Verse Questions:

1. What are the circumstances of Nebuchadnezzar's dream? How does he react to it? Why do you think he had this reaction, given what we later learn about the dream? (1-2)
2. With whom does he consult to solve his problem? What is their initial attitude about helping him with his problem?
3. What do verses 5-6 teach you about Nebuchadnezzar? (5-6)
4. Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar commands such an unreasonable thing of his counselors in verses 8-9? What does it teach you about him? Do you think he had forgotten his dream, or was he merely testing them to see if they could give an accurate interpretation? Why do you think it was so important to him to have an accurate interpretation of the dream? (8-9)

5. How do the astrologers answer the king? How does their answer help to glorify God in the end? (10-11)
6. Why do you think the king reacted with such rage after their very reasonable answer? What does his decree show you about his nature and his authority? (12)
7. How does this whole circumstance give God a chance to glorify himself through Daniel?
8. How does Daniel respond to this extreme situation? What character traits does he display here?
9. How would you characterize his dealings with Arioch? (14-15)
10. What is astounding about verse 16, especially when compared with verse 8? Why do you think this enraged king was willing to grant Daniel's request? (16)
11. What does 2:17-19 teach you about the hidden root system of Daniel's courage and faith? How do they show Daniel's leadership? (17-19)
12. What amazing thing happened in verse 19? How does it show God's power? (See, for example, verse 28) (19)
13. How does Daniel react to the revelation? Do you think it was the content of the dream or the fact that God could read Nebuchadnezzar's mind that caused Daniel to praise God? (19)
14. For what does Daniel praise God in verses 20-23? What do these verses reveal about God's power and sovereign control? (20-23)
15. How does this passage compare with Psalm 75:6-7?
16. What does it mean, "He changes times and seasons?" (21)
17. How does, "He sets up kings and deposes them," comfort us? (21)
18. What does verse 22 teach us about God's omniscience? How does it refute, "open theism," the doctrine that God cannot know the future because human free will is unpredictable? (22)
19. Why is verse 23 an appropriate end to Daniel's praise? (23)

III. Summary:

Nebuchadnezzar has a dream which causes him great mental anguish, and he demands of his counselors to both tell him the dream and interpret it for him. When they are unable to do these two things, he orders all the wise men in Babylon to be executed. Daniel finds out about this decree, asks the king for time, gathers his friends around him, and prays for an answer. God

reveals the amazing answer and Daniel praises God for His wisdom and power.

IV. Application:

1. How would understanding God's perfect omniscience help calm our hearts in daily life?
2. How would understanding God's sovereign control over the political and military events of human history help us?
3. How can we personally learn from Daniel's example as displayed in these verses?

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Revealed and Explained Daniel 2:24-49

I. Main Questions:

1. John MacArthur called this study, "The Rise and Fall of the World."² How does that aptly describe the meaning of the statue? *Note: Scholars identify the four phases of the statue as Head of Gold = Babylon; Chest and Arms of Silver = Medo-Persia; Belly and Thighs of Bronze = Greece; Legs of Iron = Rome.*
2. What does this chapter teach us about the kingdoms of this world compared to the Kingdom of God?
3. Why do you think God wanted this revealed to the human race?
4. What does this passage teach you about our future life in heaven?

II. Verse by Verse Questions:

1. How does Daniel get put in a position to stand before the King and interpret this dream? (24)
2. What is the first thing that Daniel asks of Arioch? What does this show you about his character? (24)
3. How does Arioch respond to Daniel? Does it seem to you that he takes credit for finding Daniel? If so, what does this show you about human nature? (25)
4. What does the King ask Daniel? How does Daniel answer him? (26-28)
5. Why do you think the biblical account so consistently gives us Daniel's Babylonian name (Belteshazzar)? (26)
6. How does Daniel seek to give God the glory for the interpretation he is about to give? Compare this with Joseph: Genesis 41:15-16 (also Genesis 40:8). (28)
7. What are the two mysteries God is about to reveal through Daniel? (28)
8. How does God's revelation of mysteries relate to Deuteronomy 29:29?
9. What is the practical significance for our daily Christian lives of Daniel's statement: "Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were laying on your bed are these...?" Compare it with Hebrews 4:13, Psalm 44:21, Romans 2:16, 1 Corinthians 4:5, and 14:24-25. How should it cause you to keep your own thought life pure? (See Philippians 4:8). (28)

10. What is the dream basically about, according to verse 29? Why do you think the King was thinking about, “things to come” as he was lying there? (29)
11. Why do you think God wanted Nebuchadnezzar to know what was going to happen? (29-30)
12. What does verse 30 show you about Daniel’s character? Is this false humility or a true grasp of reality? (30)
13. In your own words, what did Nebuchadnezzar see in his dream? (31-33)
14. What happened to the statue? How did Daniel describe the rock that struck the statue? What is the significance of the statement, “a rock cut out but not by human hands?” How does he describe what happened to the rock after it struck the statue? (34)
15. What happened to the pieces from the statue? What is the significance of the phrase, “without leaving a trace?” Given what we are about to find out about the meaning of this, how does verse 35 sum up human history apart from God? Relate it to Isaiah 40:6-8 and Habakkuk 2:12-14. (35)
16. What does the statue represent? What observations can you make about the statue? The use of a man to make this representation? The use of various metals, the decreasing value of the metals? The final stage being clay?
17. What title does Daniel give to King Nebuchadnezzar? What is the significance of this title? How was it true of Nebuchadnezzar?
18. Why was Nebuchadnezzar represented by a head of gold? (37-38)
19. What is God’s role in Nebuchadnezzar’s reign? What does it say God had given him? Why do you think it specifically mentions animals? (See Daniel 4:12,21; see especially Genesis 1:26 and Psalm 8:6-8. (37-38)
20. What does verse 39 teach about the kingdom that follows Babylon? Why do you think Daniel says so little about it? What of the next kingdom? How does Daniel describe it/ (39)
21. How is the fourth kingdom described? Why do you think iron was the metal chosen? (40)
22. How does the statue end up? Why do you think so much detail went into describing the feet/toes? What does Daniel teach us about the toes? (41-43)

23. The most thrilling part comes in verses 44-45. When does this Kingdom get set up? Who will set it up? How is it described? What is the relationship between this final Kingdom and all the others?
24. From where was the rock cut out (see verse 45)? What did the rock become? (See verse 30). What do you make of this? Compare it to the yeast in Matthew 13:33. How does the Kingdom of God grow in the world? In what sense will it fill the whole world? (45)
25. What does Daniel mean by, “the dream is true, and the interpretation is trustworthy?” (45)
26. Do you find King Nebuchadnezzar’s response amazing? What is so amazing about it? (46)
27. Why does Nebuchadnezzar respond this way? (46)
28. What does he say about God? Do you think he understands who God is at this point? (47)
29. Why did he promote Daniel? Why did Daniel recommend that the King promote Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? (48-49)

III. Summary:

Daniel interprets King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream for him. The statue represents human history – the “Rise and Fall of the World.”³ All those human kingdoms are temporary, eventually, “dust in the wind.” The centerpiece of the dream is the establishment of the Kingdom of God which will never end.

IV. Application:

1. How would meditating on the truths of this chapter help give us confidence as we face the political and military events of the world?
2. Instead of being discouraged about the cycle of the rise and fall of human empires, what can we gain from understanding this cycle?
3. How should knowing that the Kingdom of God will never end impact our daily lives, while we live in our current “kingdom?”

Faith Vindicated in a Trial by Fire

Daniel 3:1-30

I. Main Questions:

1. What does this story teach us about the nature of true faith?
2. What can we learn here about the dangers of human power?
3. How is this passage a vindication of James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3-5?
How would it help us not to fear any trial the Lord may bring our way?
4. How can this account help you grow in faith-filled joy in trial?

II. Verse by Verse Questions:

1. What do you think was Nebuchadnezzar's goal in setting up this golden statue and forcing everyone in the province of Babylon to fall down and worship it?
2. Do you think there was any connection between the "head of gold" in the statue of Daniel 2, and the whole image of gold in Daniel 3?
3. What are the dimensions of the statue? Where was it set up? (1)
4. Who was summoned, and why? Did they obey? (2-3)
5. What was the role of the herald? What of the music? Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar did it this way? (4-5)
6. What was the penalty for disobedience? Why such a harsh penalty? (6)
7. What was the outcome? Did everyone obey as far according to just 3:7? (7)
8. Why do you think the account focuses on the fact that the accusation denounced the Jews? Why not merely that it was against these three men? (8)
9. How do the accusers go about their work? How do they make their case? (9-12)
10. What does verse 12 reveal about the motives of these accusers, especially when they focus on the fact that these men were, "Jews" who, "had been set over the affairs of the province of Babylon?" (12)
11. Is there anything false in their accusation? Is anything true in it? (12)
12. What was Nebuchadnezzar's response to this accusation? Why did he respond that way?
13. Why do you think James 1:20 calls human anger, "moral filth?" How does this account prove that assessment?

14. Why do you think the account in Daniel is so repetitive, as the three Hebrews are brought before the king and he reiterates the issues already so clearly covered? (14-15)
15. What two things does the king ask them about? Where do you think the other issue (i.e., not serving Nebuchadnezzar's gods) came from? (14)
16. What does verse 15's statement, "Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?" show you about Nebuchadnezzar's real motives in all of this? How is it similar to Pharaoh's question in Exodus 5:2, "Who is the Lord, that I should let Israel go?" What parallels do you see between God's answer to each of these tyrants? What differences? (15)
17. How do Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answer the king? What do they mean by saying, "We do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter?" Why not? (16)
18. What does verse 17 teach you about their faith? On what basis did they make this statement? (17)
19. What does 3:18 teach you about their faith? See main question #4 above. (18)
20. What was Nebuchadnezzar's reaction after their courageous refusal? What did the stoking of the fire show about his rational mind at this point? (19)
21. How was the execution to be carried out? (20)
22. Why did the account mention their robes, trousers, and other clothing? (21)
23. What happened to the soldiers who threw them in? How does this help to glorify God in this account? (22)
24. Explain what happened next. What did Nebuchadnezzar see? (24-25)
25. How would you speculate that the "one who looked like a son of the gods" appeared to Nebuchadnezzar?
26. What command did Nebuchadnezzar give next? Did they obey that command? Was Nebuchadnezzar able to enforce the command if they hadn't obeyed? (26)
27. How do you think the royal officials felt when they saw no physical effect of the blazing fire on these three men? (27)
28. How would you account for this miracle physically? (27)
29. What was Nebuchadnezzar's reaction to this miracle? (28-30)

30. What does verse 29 teach you about Nebuchadnezzar's heart at this point? How does it relate to, the separation of church and state? (29)
31. Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar promoted them? (30)

III. Summary:

Daniel 3 records one of the most courageous stands of faith and the most spectacular miracles in the whole Bible. Three Hebrew men were willing to give up their lives in a blazing furnace rather than worship any god but the true God.

IV. Application:

1. How do you think many modern churchgoers would have dealt with the dire predicament the three men faced here? How would we have been tempted to compromise?
2. How can studying martyr stories help strengthen us in our daily lives and trials? How can it help us in evangelism?
3. Why does God sometimes rescue and sometimes does not? (See Heb. 11:35).

God humbles Nebuchadnezzar... and Us

Daniel 4:1-37

I. Main Questions:

1. What does this passage teach us about God? About his sovereignty? About his patience? About his power? About his grace and mercy? About what he loves and what he hates?
2. What does this passage teach us about pride? Why do you think God hates it so much?
3. How is this passage a personal warning to each one of us?
4. Do you consider verse 37 a warning or a promise? Why?
5. What effect do you think this experience had on Nebuchadnezzar? How is it an encouragement to pray for kings and those in authority? (See 1 Timothy 2:1-4)

II. Verse by Verse Questions:

1. Why do you think God chose to have King Nebuchadnezzar write a chapter in the Bible? How is this chapter written as a personal testimony of a humbled and now worshipful king a very poignant display of God's sovereignty and mercy?
2. What is Nebuchadnezzar's attitude as he writes these words? (2)
3. Why does Nebuchadnezzar speak of miraculous signs and wonders here? (2)
4. How does Nebuchadnezzar praise God in verse 3? (3)
5. What was Nebuchadnezzar's situation at the start of this incident? (4)
6. What effect can prosperity have on the human heart? Why is it sometimes more difficult to be spiritually healthy in times of prosperity than in times of adversity? (4)
7. Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar responded to the dream with such terror? What does this show you about the expression, "Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown?"⁴ (5)
8. What was Nebuchadnezzar's first response to this dream? What was the outcome? (6-7)
9. What is the significance of the fact that Daniel did not come in with the rest of the "counselors?" How did Nebuchadnezzar describe him? What does this show about his view of God? (8)

10. Why is Nebuchadnezzar so confident in Daniel's ability to interpret the dream? If so, why didn't he call him the first time? (9)
11. What were the details of the dream? Why do you think God used a mighty, fruitful, shading, lush tree to symbolize Nebuchadnezzar? (10-12)
12. What happened to the tree? How was the decision announced? Why do you think God used an angel to speak to Nebuchadnezzar? (13-14)
13. What happened to the root system? (15)
14. At what point does the angel's statement subtly make a transition to talking about Nebuchadnezzar directly and no longer as a tree? (15-16)
15. What scary fate awaited Nebuchadnezzar based on the angel's statement? (15-16)
16. What is the significance of verse 17? What does it teach us about God's purposes? (17)
17. What was Daniel's reaction to Nebuchadnezzar's dream? What does this teach you about Daniel? What does it teach you about their relationship? (19)
18. Why do you think Daniel repeats the dream's details so closely? (20-21, 23)
19. How do you think the words, "You, O King, are that tree!" hit Nebuchadnezzar? (22)
20. What does verse 22 teach you about Nebuchadnezzar's empire and his power over it? (22)
21. What is the significance of the words, "This is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king?" (24)
22. How does Daniel interpret the dream? What does the dream signify will happen to Nebuchadnezzar? (25)
23. What hope does Daniel give Nebuchadnezzar to induce him to repent? (25-26)
24. What reason does Daniel give for this decree from God? What is the lesson that Nebuchadnezzar must learn? (25-26)
25. What moral application does Daniel make to Nebuchadnezzar? What does this show you about Nebuchadnezzar's manner of rule? How did this appeal by Daniel show great prophetic courage on his part? (27)
26. What do verses 28-29 teach you about God's patience? What about Nebuchadnezzar's stubbornness? (28-29)

27. What does verse 30 teach you about human pride? Why do you think God hates it so much? (30)
28. Compare verse 31 with Acts 12:23. What do these verses teach us about God's power and judgment? (Think of Edwards's, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God") (31)
29. Why did the angel repeat the content of the dream? How long did it take for it to take effect? (31-33)
30. How humbling do you think this must have been for such a mighty potentate? Consider the details... the memories his counselors must have had years later.
31. How was Nebuchadnezzar's sanity restored? What happened first? (34)
32. What was the immediate result of Nebuchadnezzar's sanity being restored? How does this support the concept that sin is insanity, and that worship is the healthiest thing we can do?
33. What specifically does Nebuchadnezzar praise about God? What words does he put toward worship? (34)
34. What does verse 35 teach you about God's sovereignty over all human nations, no matter how powerful? See Isaiah 40:22-24. (35)
35. How is God's pleasure involved in his reign? (See Psalm 115:3)
36. What does it mean, "No one can hold back his hand?" (35)
37. What does it mean, "No one can say to him, 'What have you done?'"
38. How is verse 36 shocking when you consider what usually happens to weak or insane emperors? (36)
39. How does Nebuchadnezzar conclude the matter? What specific statements does he make that vindicate God's dealings with him? (37)
40. What is his final statement? Is it a threat or a promise? How should we live based on its truth? (37)

III. Summary:

God humbled King Nebuchadnezzar and taught him that he rules over all kings and kingdoms.

IV. Application:

1. What areas of pride do you need to denounce in your life? Are there any works of God that you are pridefully claiming as your own?

2. How can you use meditation on God's character and deeds as a way to jolt yourself out of your prideful stupor?
3. Should you fear or be thankful for God's ability and commitment to humble you? Or both?

The Writing on the Wall

Daniel 5:1-31

I. Main Questions:

1. What does this chapter teach you about the judgment of God? How does it serve as an illustration of the statement in Galatians 6:7, “God cannot be mocked?”
2. How does it show the power of God to bring human life to a sudden end?
3. What does the sudden change of Belshazzar from laughter to terror show about human nature?
4. What does the inscription teach us about the patience of God and its purpose? (See Romans 2:4, Genesis 15:16, Revelation 2:21)

II. Verse by Verse Questions:

1. What does this passage teach about human arrogance? About spiritual pride? Given the fact that the Medo-Persian army was surrounding the walls that very night? (1-4)
2. How is this passage a display of the, “eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die” mentality of the pagan world? (1-4)
3. What do you think motivated Belshazzar to call for the vessels from the Lord’s temple in particular? (1-4)
4. What was particularly offensive about this toast to the gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone?
5. How did God interrupt the feast? What does this show about God’s character? Why didn’t he just destroy them all without warning? (5)
6. What warning did God choose? How does it relate to the role Scripture plays in warning us all about coming judgment? (5)
7. What was the effect of the writing on Belshazzar? What does this teach about the bravado human beings put up against God, acting like they’re not afraid at all of dying and facing judgment? (6)
8. What was the king’s response to the mysterious writing? What did he offer them? (7)
9. Were his counselors able to help him? Why not? (8)
10. What was the king’s reaction to their failure? (9)

11. Who introduced Daniel to Belshazzar? What is the significance that Daniel seemed to be unknown to Belshazzar? How old do you think Daniel would have been by this time? (See Daniel 9:2, Jeremiah 29:10) (10-12)
12. Does the queen assume the writing on the wall means bad news? (10)
13. How does the queen describe Daniel? (12)
14. What did Belshazzar say to Daniel? Do you think he respected Daniel? (13-16)
15. What does he offer Daniel? (16)
16. What was Daniel's attitude toward Belshazzar? Compare it with his attitude toward Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:19. (17-24)
17. What was Daniel's attitude toward the rewards Belshazzar offered him? (17)
18. Why do you think Daniel recounted all the history of Nebuchadnezzar to Belshazzar? (18-21)
19. According to verses 22-23, what should Belshazzar have done in light of this history? (22-23)
20. What does 5:23 teach about God's sovereignty over all human beings? (23)
21. Why is it important for all people to humble themselves and honor the God who holds in His hand our lives and all our ways? (23)
22. What was the inscription? What did it mean? What does it teach about God's judgment? What of God's patience? (25-28)
23. How would you relate verse 26 to Psalm 139:16, "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.?" (26)
24. The Hebrew word for glory is *cabod* meaning something weighty or massive. How would you relate verse 27 to Romans 3:23? (27)
25. What do you think Daniel thought of Belshazzar's reward? Why do you think Belshazzar did it? Why would it have been very dangerous for Daniel to be made the third-highest ruler in the kingdom? (29)
26. How does the story end for Belshazzar? How does it relate to Luke 12:20, "You fool, this very night your soul will be required from you. Who then will get what you have stored up for yourself?" (30-31)
27. The fall of Babylon is one of the major events in redemptive history in the area of the interaction between God's people and powerful pagan

nations. The following prophecies make it clear how sovereign God is, predicting and controlling exactly how Babylon would fall:

- a. Isaiah 21:2, 4-5, 9 Destroyed by Media and by partying instead of fighting.
- b. Isaiah 13:17-22 Destroyed by the Medes, never to be rebuilt or dwelt in.
- c. Habakkuk 2:12-17: Destroyed by drunkenness.
- d. Jeremiah 27:6-7: Nebuchadnezzar's grandson.
- e. Jeremiah 51:1: Babylon destroyed by Media.
- f. Jeremiah 51:36-39: Destroyed by a dried-up river and drunken soldiers.
- g. Jeremiah 51:57: slaughtered in their beds.
- h. Revelation 18:1-2: the future fall of Babylon the Great.

III. Summary:

Belshazzar, King of Babylon throws an arrogant feast in the face of God and of the Medo-Persian army that surrounded the walls of Babylon. God responded by sending a hand to write judgment on the walls and by sending the army under the walls of Babylon. That very night, Babylon fell.

IV. Application:

1. Why should this passage serve as a warning to us about the brevity of life?
2. Ponder what might have happened if Nebuchadnezzar had raised his son and grandson knowing all about the God that he bowed his knee and submitted to. How does this admonish those of us who are parents to be intentional in teaching our children about God?
3. The queen described Daniel as one with keen insight, wisdom, and the ability to interpret dreams, and as someone Nebuchadnezzar trusted. If someone who did not know the Lord were to describe your character to others, would it reflect Christ in you? If not, what should you change about your life to better point to God?

God Rescues Daniel from the Lions Daniel 6:1-28

I. Main Questions:

1. What does this passage teach you about human sinfulness?
2. What does it teach you about God's character?
3. How is Daniel a role model for us as Christians?
4. How does this passage encourage you to be faithful in private prayer?
5. How did Daniel's rescue from the lions' den affect Darius?

II. Verse by Verse Questions:

1. How remarkable is it that Daniel, the, "third highest ruler in Babylon" (Daniel 5:29) would be made the third highest ruler also in the Medo-Persian empire? What does this show you of God's power? What do you think were God's purposes in so highly exalting Daniel? (1-3)
2. What does verse 1 teach you about the extent of the Persian empire? (1)
3. What does verse 2 teach you about the administration of that empire? (2)
4. What does verse 3 demonstrate about Daniel as a leader? (3)
5. What does 6:4-5 teach about Daniel's private life and personal holiness? What did his enemies *not* find in Daniel? What traits *did* they find? What conclusion did they come to about Daniel's private *and* public life? (4-5)
6. Do you think Daniel would have lived any differently if he had known that his enemies would be watching him in private to see if they could find any dirt on him with which to disqualify him? What motivated Daniel to live above reproach even in private?
7. How important is the issue of personal holiness in the Christian life? Why is it especially important for a leader like Daniel?
8. Comment on Luke 8:17. How does it help you to live a life of personal holiness?
9. What plot do Daniel's enemies weave to snare him and bring him down? (6-9)
10. How does Darius's assent show moral weakness and sin in him? (9)

11. What does verse 10 teach you about Daniel's character? What of his personal habits of prayer? Do you think you could imitate Daniel's example in your daily life? Why or why not? (10)
12. What details of Daniel's prayer life do verses 10-11 give us? (10-11)
13. Why do you think Daniel prayed toward Jerusalem? [Note: Daniel's prayer for the future of Jerusalem in chapter 9 gives an insight into this]
14. How did Daniel's enemies spring their trap? What lie did they tell about him? (12-13)
15. Why do you think Darius was so distressed at this? Why did he try so hard to rescue Daniel? Why was he ultimately unsuccessful? (14-16)
16. What did Darius say to Daniel as he condemned him? What does this show you about Daniel's witness to Darius? (16)
17. How is verse 17 and Daniel's subsequent deliverance from the den a type (prophetic picture) of Christ's resurrection? (See Matthew 27:66)
18. What does Darius's behavior that evening and his attitude as he hurried to the den and called out in an anguished voice teach you about his feelings for Daniel? (18-20)
19. What do you think Darius must have felt when Daniel answered him? (21-22)
20. How do you think the angel accomplished his mission? Why do you think God chose to deliver Daniel by using an angel? (22)
21. According to verse 23, why had God rescued Daniel? What does this show you about the priority God places on trust (faith)? (23)
22. What do you make of 6:24? What does it teach you about Darius? What of Daniel's enemies? What of the lions? Do you think Darius was unjust? (24)
23. Read and comment on Psalm 7, especially Psalm 7:15 as a commentary on Daniel 6:24.
24. What does Darius's decree teach you about the effect of this miracle on him? (25-28)
25. Do you think it is foolish to decree that people everywhere, "fear and reverence" God? What of separation of church and state and freedom of the conscience? Can the government mandate what only God can give? If not, what purpose does this decree serve in the Biblical account? (26)
26. While it may be poor government, it is excellent evangelism. How could you use these words as a strong basis for speaking of God's salvation through faith in Christ?

III. Summary:

Daniel's enemies, jealous of his rapid ascendancy in the Medo-Persian government, try to find a way to destroy him. Because his life is so spotless, they cannot. So, they trap King Darius into a foolish religious decree that no one should pray to any god but him for thirty days. By this means, Darius is compelled to condemn Daniel to the lions' den. But God vindicates Daniel, rescuing him from the power of the lions. Daniel's enemies are themselves thrown into the den and destroyed. Darius issued a decree to all people to fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

IV. Application:

1. Do you have such a radical commitment to prayer that you would have been thrown into the den because of your prayer life? If not, make it your goal to pray like Daniel did.
2. Even if you are not being threatened by lions because of your relationship with God, you may still be experiencing some level of external persecution or hardship because of that. How can Daniel's courage and trust in God give you the tools to handle your trials?

The Vision of the Son of Man **Daniel 7:1-28**

I. Main Questions:

1. What is the main idea of this vision?
2. Why is this vision (along with Isaiah 53) one of the two most important prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament?
3. What does this vision teach us about God's sovereignty? About the suffering of the saints? About their final triumph?

II. Verse by Verse Questions:

1. When did this vision occur? What circumstances does Daniel give for it? (1)
2. What does Daniel mean when he says he wrote down the "substance" (or, "sum") of the matter? (1)
3. What is the first thing Daniel saw in his dream? What do you think the four winds represent? (See Genesis 1:2) What does the churning sea represent? (See Isaiah 17:12; also, Revelation 13:1) (2)
4. What does Daniel see next in his dream? How does he describe the four beasts in verse 3? (3)
5. What did the first beast look like? What do you think each of the elements he describes represents? (4)
6. What happened to the first beast? What do you think that represented? (4)
7. How does Daniel describe the second beast? What are the natural characteristics of a bear? Why do you think the second beast was, "raised up on one of its sides?" What was the second beast commanded to do? What do you think this represented? (5)
8. How does Daniel describe the third beast? What are the natural characteristics of a leopard? Why do you think it had four wings? Why four heads? (See Daniel 8:8, 22) (6)
9. What kind of beast is the fourth? Why do you think Daniel does not name the type of animal as he does in the other cases? How does he describe the appearance of this fourth beast? What does he see it doing? What other details does he give of the beast's appearance? (7)
10. What happens in verse 8? Note: the theme of boastful speech is big in this chapter – see also verses 11 and 20. (8)

11. What does Daniel see next in his vision? What is the significance of the fact that we go from the four great beasts to the heavenly throne room? What is the implied message of this contrast? (9)
12. What do the thrones of verse 9 represent? Who sits on them? (9)
13. Who is the “Ancient of Days?” Why is he called that? (9)
14. How does Daniel describe the Ancient of Days? How does he describe His throne? What do the wheels of the throne represent? (See Ezekiel 1:16-21) What is the symbolism of the fire of the throne and the river of fire coming from the throne? (See Deuteronomy 4:24, Hebrews 12:29) (9-10)
15. What else does Daniel see in his heavenly vision? Who are the thousands upon thousands that attend the heavenly throne, and the ten thousand times ten thousand that stood before him? What does this teach you about God’s power? What insights does it give you concerning, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven?” (10)
16. What does it mean, “The court was seated and the books were opened?” See Revelation 20:12, Matthew 12:36, 2 Corinthians 5:10, and Job 31:35, 37.) (10)
17. Why do you think Daniel interrupts his vision of the heavenly courtroom with the boastful words the horn was speaking? (11)
18. What happened to the fourth beast? And the other beasts? (11-12)
19. What is so significant about verses 13-14? Why do you think Jesus quotes them at the climactic moment of His trial before the High Priest? (Mark 14:62) What do these verses prove about Christ? (13-14)
20. Is the “Son of Man” the same being as, “the Ancient of Days?” If not, why is it so significant that he is worshipped in verse 14? (13-14)
21. What happens to the Son of Man in these verses? How is he portrayed as divine? How is he portrayed as human? (13-14)
22. How do these verses relate to Christ’s statement, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me?” (Matthew 28:18)
23. Who worships the Son of Man? What does it say of His kingdom? (14)
24. Some say the “Son of Man” represents the people of God (the Jews, perhaps). What in the verses prevents that interpretation? *Note: the word translated, “worshipped” can sometimes mean, “served” but it is always used of religious service done by human beings for a deity (See Daniel 3:12, 14, 17, 18, 28; 6:16, 20) (14)*

25. What was Daniel's reaction to the dream? What does he do about it? (15-16)
26. What is the quick summary of the dream and its meaning? (17-18)
27. Why do you think the vision used beasts to represent human kingdoms? (17)
28. What is the significance of the fact that the saints of the Most High will receive the Kingdom? (See verse 27; Revelation 5:10, 22:5; 2 Timothy 2:12 and Luke 12:32) (18)
29. What does Daniel focus on in verses 19-27? Why so much on the fourth beast and the horns and the little horn? (19-27)
30. What does the Little Horn do to the Saints? Why do you think this would have been so shocking to Daniel? (21)
31. What enabled the saints to triumph over the Little Horn in the end? (22)
32. What does the angel tell Daniel about the fourth beast and about the horns and the little horn? (23-24)
33. What does verse 25 teach us about the Little Horn? What does it mean that he will try to change the set times and laws? (25)
34. How long will the saints be handed over to him? (See Daniel 8:24, 12:7; Revelation 11:2)
35. What ends the career of the Little Horn in verse 26? (26)
36. What does verse 27 teach you about the future of believers in Christ? (27)
37. What does it teach about our submission to Christ as we reign? (27)
38. What was Daniel's final reaction to this vision? (28)

III. Summary:

Daniel has an awesome vision of world history—four beasts from the sea. he has an even more awesome vision of the Son of Man, ruler of heaven and earth.

IV. Application:

1. How can the Ancient of Days' final proclamation of judgment in favor of God's people (verse 22) give us immense hope in our daily lives?
2. This dream was troubling and disturbing for Daniel, who experienced the lions' den and other horrific things. If that is any indication of the

troubling circumstances surrounding the end times, how can we prepare ourselves to be strong?

3. Daniel was left confused even after the explanation God chose to provide him. God's plans may confuse us as well. How can we live at peace without understanding everything God does?

The Vision of the Ram and the Goat Daniel 8:1-27

I. Main Questions:

1. Given how specifically this vision describes the rise and death of Alexander the Great and the Greek Empire's division at his death, what does this demonstrate about the accuracy of predictive prophecy? Why is this a helpful issue in sharing the gospel?
2. What does this chapter teach you about the sovereign power of God over the rise and fall of world empires?
3. What does this chapter teach you about the power of angels?
4. How does this chapter give us a foretaste of events not yet fulfilled?

II. Verse by Verse Questions:

1. When does this vision occur? What is the significance of the timing of this vision, given that it has to do with the fall of the Persian Empire to Alexander the Great and the Greeks? (*Note: Belsazzar was slain, and his kingdom fell to the Persians in 539 B.C.; Alexander the Great defeated Darius and the Persians, thus ending their empire in 331 B.C.*) (1)
2. Where did Daniel see himself in his vision? (2)
3. What did he see? What do you think was the symbolism of using animals (ram and goat) to represent human empires? (3)
4. What was noteworthy about the ram's horns? What do you think this represented? (3)
5. What does verse 4 represent about the ram? (4)
6. What is the theological significance of the phrase, "He did as he pleased?" How would you relate this to Psalm 115:3, which says *Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him* and to the ambition of the King of Babylon to raise his throne to heaven and make himself like the Most High (Isaiah 14:13-14)? (*Note: for other examples of kings who, "did as they pleased," see Daniel 11:3, 16, 36*) (4)
7. What happened next in the vision? How was the goat's movement described? How was the goat's appearance described? (5)
8. What do verses 6-7 describe? Who initiates the conflict between the ram and the goat? What is the attitude of the goat as he attacks the ram? (6-7)
9. What happens in the battle between the goat and the ram? (7)

10. What is the significance of the statement, “none could rescue the ram from his power?” (7)
11. 8:8, together with its explanation in 8:21-22, is one of the most spectacular prophecies in the book of Daniel, verifiable by secular history more than most biblical prophecies. What do these verses teach? (8, 21-22) (*note: Alexander the Great died in Babylon after a drunken feast, and his kingdom was divided into four smaller realms: 1) Cassander assumed rule over Macedonia and Greece; 2) Lysimachus took control of Thrace, Bithynia, and most of Asia Minor; 3) Seleucus took Syria and the lands to the east, including Babylonia; 4) Ptolemy established rule over Egypt, and possibly Palestine and Arabia. (see John Walvoord, Daniel, p. 184.)*)
12. What happened after the four horns grew up? How is the little horn described? (9)
13. What evil things does the little horn do? (10-12)
14. How is this horn similar to the little horn of Daniel 7:8, 11? How is it different? (10-12)
15. What do you think the starry host represents in verse 10? (10)
16. What is the significance of the trampling of these stars? (10)
17. What does it mean that this horn sets himself up to be as great as the Prince of the Host? (11)
18. What effect does this horn have on the daily sacrifice? (11-12)
19. Comment on this verse: “It prospered in everything it did and truth was thrown to the ground” (12)
20. What happens next in the chapter? What is the significance of one holy one speaking to another and asking for information? What information does he seek? What answer is he given? (13-14)
21. What happens in verses 15-18? What do these verses teach you about angels, and about the spiritual realm in which they operate? (15-18)
22. Why do you think the angel is so specific about the vision concerning, “the time of the end” (17, 19)
23. What insight does the angel give Daniel concerning this vision? Who is the two-horned ram? Who is the shaggy goat? Who is the prominent horn between the eyes? (20-21)
24. What insight does verse 22 give us about the relative strengths of the four kingdoms that follow Alexander’s (22)

25. What do verses 23-25 teach us about the “little horn?” How is the man himself described? How is his reign described? What effects will his reign have? What will his end be? (23-25)
26. Why do you think the angel focuses on the little horn’s war on the saints and blasphemy against the “Prince of princes?” (25)
27. What does the angel tell Daniel about what to do with this vision? Compare this with Daniel 12:4. (26)
28. What is the effect of this whole experience on Daniel? Why does he say, “It was beyond understanding?” (27)

III. Summary:

Daniel has a vision of the future destruction of the Medo-Persian empire by the Greeks under Alexander the Great. The vision is astonishing in its specificity. A large focus of the vision concerns the coming anti-Christ figure known as Antiochus Epiphanes, the eighth king of the Syrian dynasty, who reigned from 175-164 B.C.

IV. Application:

1. This chapter contains clear and detailed prophecies about historical events that ended up happening. How can we use this fact to bolster our confidence in the Word of God and in God himself?
2. When Daniel was done receiving this vision, it says he went about the king’s business – he continued to live his daily life that looked nothing like the events he had just seen. We may not experience these prophesied things in our lifetimes. How should we go about our business, simultaneously meditating on the things that are to come and accomplishing the good works God has for us today?

Daniel's Passionate Prayer for Israel

Daniel 9:1-19

I. Main Questions:

1. In one sentence, what is Daniel asking God to do?
2. Why does he say he wants God to do this?
3. What does this passage teach you about intercessory prayer?
4. What does it teach about humility and confession of sin?
5. What attributes does Daniel ascribe to God in his prayer? What does he ascribe to Israel, himself included?

II. Verse by Verse Questions:

1. What does verse 1 teach you about the historical circumstances of Daniel's prayer? (1)
2. How do those circumstances relate to the prophecies of God about Cyrus, King of Persia in Isaiah 44:28, 45:1, and 45:13? See also Ezra 1:1. (1)
3. What motivated Daniel's passionate prayer for the rebuilding of Jerusalem? What does this teach you about the relationship between Scripture intake and intercessory prayer?
4. Read Jeremiah 25:11-12 and Jeremiah 29:10. What do you think Daniel understood from these passages about Israel's future? (2)
5. What does the phrase, "desolation of Jerusalem" mean? (2)
6. Why do you think Daniel was so focused on Jerusalem? (See also Daniel 6:10)
7. How does Daniel describe his prayer in verse 3? What does this verse teach you about his level of commitment to what he was praying for? (3)
8. What role do fasting and sackcloth/ashes play in Daniel's prayer? What do they show about his approach to God? Compare with Luke 18:13. (3)
1. verses 4-14: *Daniel Reviews Israel's History of Rebellion*
9. How does Daniel begin his prayer? How does the greatness of God relate to Daniel's request for God to rebuild Jerusalem and restore the Jews? (4)
10. Why does Daniel mention God's faithfulness to His covenant? Read Deuteronomy 30:1-4. How would God restoring Israel to the Promised Land after their exile be an act of God's faithfulness to his covenant? (4)

11. Why do you think Daniel mentions that God keeps his covenant with those who love him and obey his commands? (See Deuteronomy 7:9-10) Why is that such a problem for Daniel's purpose in prayer? (4-5)
12. What does Daniel confess in this prayer? How many times does he refer to his own and to Israel's sin and disobedience? (Read through 4-16)
13. Why is the statement, "Lord you are righteous" such an important one, given the fact that God allowed the Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem, which Daniel now wants God to allow to be rebuilt? Why is the righteousness of God in all that so important? (7)
14. What is shame? Why does Daniel say that he and all of Israel are covered with shame? (7-8)
15. Why is it so important also that God is merciful and forgiving? (9)
16. What role do the prophets play in Daniel's prayer? (6, 10)
17. According to verses 11-12, what is the reason for the destruction of Jerusalem? (11-12)
18. Read Deuteronomy 28:36, and Deuteronomy 32. How were these fulfilled in Israel's history? (11)
19. Why does Daniel think the destruction of Jerusalem is so unusual? "*Under the whole heaven, nothing has ever been done like what was done to Jerusalem.*" (12)
20. What additional sin does Daniel confess in verse 13? (13)
21. How does Daniel vindicate God again in verse 14? (14)
2. verses 15-19: *Daniel Pleads with God to Restore Jerusalem*
22. What shift in the prayer do you see in verses 15-16? (15-16)
23. Why does Daniel mention God's mighty hand in the Exodus from Egypt as he asks God to rebuild Jerusalem? (15)
24. How is the rebuilding of Jerusalem, "in keeping with all God's righteous acts?" In other words, why would it be righteous for God to rebuild the city? (16)
25. Comment on the passion you see in Daniel's prayer in verses 17-19. (17-19)
26. What motive does Daniel give for God to rebuild the city? (17-18)
27. How does Daniel think this rebuilding would bring glory and honor to God's name?
28. What does Daniel reject as a motive in verse 18? (18)

29. Why should desire for the honor of God's name always be the central motive of our prayers?

III. Summary:

Daniel prays with great passion and urgency for the rebuilding of Jerusalem. He does so for the praise of God's glory, not because of his or his people's righteousness.

IV. Application:

1. How does this passage motivate you personally in prayer and Bible intake?
2. When faced with the future trials of his people, Daniel turned to God in prayer. When your heart is burdened by sin and its consequences (in your own life and the lives of others), how often do you turn to God? What do your prayers look like?
3. Take a moment to pray as Daniel did in this chapter. Talk to God about his attributes and his great deeds. Confess your sins and the sins of your nation. Repeat the promises of God to him. Humbly request his mercy and forgiveness.

The Seventy, “Weeks” of Daniel Daniel 9:20-27

I. Main Questions:

1. What does this passage teach us about God’s foreknowledge and sovereignty?
2. What does it teach us about prophecy and the Bible? How does 1 Peter 1:11 help explain this passage and vice versa?
3. What does this passage teach us about the invisible spiritual world around us?

II. Verse by Verse Questions:

1. How does verse 20 summarize Daniel’s prayer of verses 4-19? How does it help to interpret Gabriel’s answer? (20)
2. What does this section teach us about angels? Gabriel is the same angel who will appear over 550 years later to Zechariah and Mary in Luke 1! (21)
3. What reason does Gabriel give to Daniel for his visit? (22)
4. Why do you think God chose to send an angel rather than just speak directly to Daniel as he does at other times and with other prophets?
5. What is the significance of the statement, “As soon as you began to pray...?” And what is the significance of Gabriel saying that Daniel is a “man highly esteemed?” (23)
6. What thinking will Daniel have to do to understand this message? What does 1 Peter 1:10-12 teach us about that? (23)
7. What do you think, “seventy weeks (sevens)” means? Do you think it refers to time? What is the significance of the word, “decreed?” What does it teach you about God’s sovereignty? (24)
8. For whom are these seventy, “weeks” decreed? (24)
9. What six things are listed as the purpose of the seventy, “weeks?” How much is atonement for sin in view? How does that relate to Daniel’s prayer? (24)
10. These six things listed... what do they teach you about Christ’s accomplishments on the cross? How did/does Jesus, “finish transgression?” “Atone for wickedness?” “Put an end to sin?” “Bring in everlasting righteousness?” “Seal up vision and prophecy?” “Anoint the

most holy?” Have all of these been fully accomplished yet for Israel?
(24)

11. How does verse 25 serve to identify the coming of Christ? What is the challenge for interpreters here? Why do you think it separates the seven sevens and the sixty-two sevens out from the original seventy sevens?
(25)
12. What additional detail does verse 25 give? What is it referring to? (25)
13. What shocking thing does verse 26 teach us about the Messiah? Why do you think the Jews were so unprepared to hear that their Messiah would be, “cut off and have nothing?” (26)
14. What other troubling news does verse 26 give to the Jews? What does this refer to? (26)
15. Why do you think God decrees desolations and war right to the end of Israel’s history? (26)
16. What does verse 27 speak of? Why do you think some believe this refers to the final seven years of human history?
17. What details of that final, “week” does verse 27 give?
18. How does verse 27 serve as a comfort to us ultimately?

III. Summary:

The angel Gabriel appears in answer to Daniel’s prayer and gives him an astounding answer about the future of Israel. He relates that God has measured out seventy, “sevens” or, “weeks” of time to deal fully with Israel’s sin and bring in everlasting righteousness. In light of the New Testament and Christ’s achievement at the cross, this is a clear prophecy of the timetable for Christ’s advent and atonement.

IV. Application:

1. How should this passage humble us? How should it encourage us?
2. Consider verse 22 in light of James 1:5-6. When you lack wisdom in understanding the words of God, do you pray for wisdom? Do you believe that he will make things clear? Confess your unbelief to God and pray for wisdom to understand his Word.
3. Praise God for his sovereignty over all times, places, and people – past, present, and future.

Daniel's Overwhelming Vision of a Man from Heaven

Daniel 10:1-21

I. Main Questions:

1. What does this passage teach you about the power of angels?
2. What does it teach you about the invisible heavenly realms?
3. What does it teach about spiritual warfare? What does it teach about the power of evil in the heavenly realms?
4. Do you think this passage teaches such things as, "territorial spirits?" If so, how would you defend your view? If not, how would you explain the words, "prince of the Persian kingdom" and, "prince of Greece."

II. Verse by Verse Questions:

1. When did this next vision of Daniel occur? (1)
2. Who was Cyrus, King of Persia? (By way of review, see 2 Chronicles 36:22-23, Ezra 1:1-8 and Isaiah 44:28, 45:1, 45:13.)
3. What is the revelation that the angel came to give Daniel (i.e. where is it recorded for us)? What did Daniel say it concerned? How does Daniel say he came to understand the message? (1)
4. How do verses 2-3 relate to verse 1? What does Daniel say he did in verse 2? What does verse 2 teach you about types of fasting? Do you think Daniel was a lifetime vegetarian, based on Daniel 1:8, 12? How would Daniel 10:2 (this verse) mitigate against the idea that Daniel never ate meat? (2-3)
5. Why do you think Daniel, "mourned for three weeks?" (2)
6. What information does verse 4 give us? Why do you think Daniel so frequently identifies the time and place of his visions? (4)
7. What does Daniel see? How does he describe this, "man?" (5-6)
8. Why do you think the Bible so frequently describes heavenly beings with images of fire or bright glowing metal? (see Ezekiel 1:4-7, 1:27, 8:2; Revelation 1:15)
9. What is the significance of the power of the angel's voice? (6)
10. How do you explain verse 7, especially the terror that came over men who couldn't see the heavenly, "man" Daniel was conversing with? (Compare this verse with Acts 9:7) (7)

11. What effect did the vision have on Daniel? How do you account for this? Jeremiah 12:5 says, “If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses?” Given the fact that a mere angel has this effect on men, what would it be like to stand in the presence of Almighty God? (8)
12. What effect did hearing the angel speak have on Daniel? (9)
13. How did the angel enable Daniel to face him? (10)
14. What is significant about the angel’s greeting in which he calls Daniel, “you who are highly esteemed?” What kind of person does God, “highly esteem?” (See Isaiah 66:2; see also Luke 1:28 where Mary is greeted by Gabriel similarly to Daniel) (10)
15. What does the angel tell Daniel to do in verse 11? Why is careful consideration of God’s word so important in the Christian life? (See 2 Timothy 2:7, “Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.”) (11)
16. What does verse 12 teach us about godly prayer? (12)
17. What does the angel tell Daniel about his journey to give Daniel an answer? What is so astonishing about this statement? (12-13)
18. According to verse 13, who is more powerful, the angel speaking with Daniel or the “prince of the Persian kingdom?” What assistance did the archangel Michael give? Read Daniel 10:21, 12:1; Jude 9, and Revelation 12:7. What do these verses teach you about Michael?
19. Does verse 13 teach you anything about the, “powers of spiritual darkness in the heavenly realms” spoken of in Ephesians 6:10-13? How should a knowledge of this powerful opposition cause us to live? How does Jude 9 cause us to be cautious in dealing with Satan? (13)
20. What does verse 13 teach you about God’s power in angelic conflict? In other words, why do angels have to, “struggle” at all, since they are clearly doing God’s work and are holy and pure? (13)
21. What is the angel’s mission in verse 14? What is the content of his message to Daniel—what does it concern? (14)
22. How would you describe Daniel’s reaction to the angel in verses 15-19? Why do you think Daniel had such an overpowering physical reaction? How did the angel strengthen him? What does this teach you about the power of an angel to give physical support and strength? (See Luke 22:43, Matthew 4:11, and 1 Kings 19:4-8. (15-19)
23. What is the significance of the fact that the angel calls Daniel a, “man highly esteemed” a second time? (19)

24. What further insight do verses 20-21 give into the spiritual warfare of angels in the heavenly realms? Who do you think are the Prince of Persia and the Prince of Greece? (20-21)
25. What do you think verse 21 means, "First, I must tell you what is written in the book of Truth?" What insights does it give you into God's sovereignty? (21)

III. Summary:

Daniel has an overwhelming vision of a heavenly man, a messenger, an angel who prepares him to hear new revelations concerning Israel's future. The angel's words give unparalleled insight into (probably) ongoing spiritual struggles between holy angels and Satanic opposition. Daniel himself is overwhelmed by the angel's appearance and needs special strength in order to go on.

IV. Application:

1. From this passage, we can clearly understand that there is spiritual warfare always going on around us. Instead of responding in fear, how can this passage help you to respond with faith?
2. When Daniel received this vision, he mourned deeply. He was not going to experience these things, but he grieved for those who would. How is this a good example of the command in Romans 12:15 to mourn with those who mourn? Consider if this is an area you may need to grow in.

God's Astonishing Predictions of Future Events **Daniel 11:1-45**

I. Main Questions:

1. There are over one hundred fifty specific prophecies of human events that were all in the future when given to Daniel. What is the significance of this?
2. What does Daniel 10:14 tell us about the content of Daniel 11? Compare that with Ecclesiastes 8:7. What does Ecclesiastes tell us? Compare also with Isaiah 46:9-10 and Isaiah 41:22-23 and 41:26. What is the significance of God's ability to predict the future?
3. The chapter essentially has to do with the rise and fall of various Gentile kings who will in some sense be in power over Palestine (the Promised Land). Why would God give the Jews through Daniel this kind of specific information?
4. What does the prophecy show about God's sovereign power over the rise and fall of kings and empires? (See, "the appointed time" 11:27, 29, 35; see also vs. 36, "what has been determined must take place")
5. How does this chapter display the truth of Isaiah's statement in Isaiah 40:6-7 and also Isaiah 40:23-24?
6. What comfort and assurance comes to us from studying a chapter like this?

II. Verse by Verse Questions:

1. How does verse 1 connect with 10:20-21? What does verse 1 say? (1)
2. What period of world history does verse 2 cover? What specific prophecies does verse 2 give about the next phase of the Persian empire? (2)
3. What do you think the effect of verse 2 will have on the future of the Persian empire? In other words, how does verse 2 relate to the vision we already have of a mighty king of Greece coming from the west and smashing the Persian empire in Daniel 8? How do you think that is fulfilled also in verse 3 of this chapter? (2-3)
4. Who do you think the "mighty king" of verse 3 is? [History tells us Alexander came and defeated Persia as noted above] What does it mean that he would, "do as he pleases" (or, "do according to his will")? See the same expression in verse 16 and 36. What is the characteristic of

human empire builders? How does it relate to Psalm 115:3, which says *Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him?* (3)

5. What specific details does verse 4 give us about the kingdom of the king spoken of in verse 3? How does this verse (along with Daniel 8:8, 22) help identify the king of verse 3 as Alexander the Great? What does the fact that the kingdom would not go to his descendants and that it will be, “uprooted” show about the limits of human power? (Human sin and mortality are truly the “feet of clay” of all human empires). (4)
6. History tells us that the fulfillment of verse 5, the, “king of the South” is Ptolemy I Soter who reigned from 322-285 B.C. South refers essentially to Egypt as well as Palestine. What specific details does verse 5 give about this man’s reign? (5)

Note: Verses 5-20 describe in great detail the ebbs and flows of intrigue and military struggle between the kings of the South (Ptolomies) and of the North (Seleucids), with the center of focus being the Promised Land (see verse 16, the, “Beautiful Land” is the Promised Land.

7. How does the struggle between the kings of the South and the North epitomize the struggle for material possessions, power, authority, and land that has been present from the time of Cain and Abel? (5-20)
8. The man referred to in verses 21-35 is Antiochus IV Epiphanes. What do we learn about his character and his intent in these verses and in Daniel 8:9-12? (21-35)
9. How does Antiochus seize the land? Why do you think he was called a contemptible person? (21-26)
10. Verses 27 and 29 talk about “the appointed time.” Whose appointed time? How does this remind us of the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel 2:36-45? (27-29)
11. What is the holy covenant in verses 30-32? Why did this contemptible have such fury against it? (30-32)
12. What is the abomination that causes desolation and what does it have to do with the temple? (31)
13. Who will resist him? How did the Jewish people who knew their God have the strength to firmly resist this man who was so unstoppable and persuasive to every other nation and power he came into contact with? (32)
14. What happens to those who resist this man? (33-34)

15. In verse 35, we see another mention of “the appointed time.” Why do you think this is said so often in these prophecies about future troubling events? (35)
16. From verses 36-45, there is a shift in conversation from Antiochus IV Epiphanes to someone whom we have not seen yet in history. We know this is not the same person because these things have no match in history yet. Who do you think this person is? (36-45)
17. We can see that this man is evil in an unheard-of way. This could have the power to be very disheartening to those who love God. What encouragement can we get from the end of verse 36? How is God sovereign even over the anti-Christ? (36)
18. Compare verse 37 to the facts we know about Antiochus and the abomination that causes desolation in verse 31. How does this comparison show us that we are no longer talking about the same person? (37)
19. What kind of religion is the anti-Christ establishing in verses 37-39? Who is the god of this religion? (37-39)
20. How widespread will the reign of the anti-Christ be? What can we learn about his success in verses 40-43? (40-43)
21. The tide starts turning in verse 44, and ultimately the anti-Christ comes to his appointed end. What do we know about how this all ends for the anti-Christ? (44-45)

Summary

In this chapter we see the ongoing power struggle of the human race – kingdoms coming and going. There is an anti-Christ who wreaks considerable havoc on the people of God. But this minor anti-Christ – as abominable as he was, was still destroyed by the word of the Lord at his appointed time. And he pales in comparison to the anti-Christ in verses 36-45. This is the final (and most powerful) anti-Christ. His power will be widespread and it will seem as if no one can stop him. But even he is subject to the sovereignty of God, and even he will come to his timely end.

Application

1. Why is it so crucial that we are a people who know our God during times of peace and during times of hardship and persecution?

2. What truth about God helps us face the end times and the anti-Christ (or even the current unrest and evil rulers in the world) with courage and hope?

The End of All Things **Daniel 12:1-13**

I. Main Questions:

1. What does this passage teach about the resurrection from the dead?
2. What does it teach about future heavenly glory?
3. What does it teach about hell?
4. What is the significance of the closing up and sealing of this prophecy until the time of the end?
5. How does this passage give an insight into Peter's statement, "Even angels long to look into these things?" (1 Peter 1:12)
6. How do the angel's final words to Daniel offer comfort to all Christians?

II. Verse by Verse Questions:

1. What does verse 1 teach us about Michael? What does it mean, "the great prince who protects your people?" What does it mean that he will, "arise"? Compare it with Daniel 10:13 and 10:20-21/11:1. (1)
2. What is the significance of the angel's promise of a time of great distress? (See also Matt. 24:21) What do you make of the phrase, "from the beginning of nations?" (See Genesis 10, "Table of Nations") (2)
3. What does the angel promise concerning Daniel's people in verse 1? What do you think is the nature of their, "deliverance?" What does the angel mean by qualifying it with the phrase, "everyone whose name is found written in the book?" What, "book?" (See Daniel 7:10; see also Exodus 32:32-33, and Revelation 13:8, 20:12, 21:27.) (1)
4. Verse 2 is one of the most significant verses in the Old Testament on the doctrine of the resurrection from the dead. What does this verse teach about that? Compare it with Jesus' statement in John 5:28-29 (2)
5. What insights does this verse give about judgment day? What does it teach you about the eternal nature of heaven and hell? (2)
6. What is the significance of the words, "shame and everlasting contempt?"
7. What does verse 3 teach about heaven? Compare it with Jesus' promise, "Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their father." (Matthew 13:43) (3)
8. What is the significance of the phrase, "Those who are wise" or, "Those who impart wisdom?" How does wisdom relate to personal salvation? (See 1 Corinthians 1:30, 2:7)

9. What is the significance of the statement that the wise, “lead many to righteousness?” (3)
10. Verse 3 says the righteous will shine like the stars forever. Compare this with 1 Corinthians 15:43, which speaks of resurrection glory. (3)
11. Why do you think the angel tells Daniel to, “close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end?” (4)
12. What do you think he means by, “Many will go here and there to increase knowledge?” What could this refer to? (4)
13. What happened next in the vision? What insights do verses 5-7 give into the angelic world? What insights do they give you in terms of angelic ignorance? See 1 Peter 1:12. (5-7)
14. What question does the angel ask the other angel? Why do you think the angels are so interested in the timetable for these events? (5-7)
15. How does the angel above the river answer the question? What is the significance of him swearing and raising his right hand toward heaven? (7)
16. What does it mean when it says, “When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed?” What does this refer to? (7)
17. What was Daniel’s reaction to these insights from the angel in 12:8? (8)
18. Why do you think the angel shuts Daniel’s inquiry down at this point? What does it teach you about prophecies of the end time? (9)
19. What does verse 10 teach about the end times? How does moral purity relate to the insight of prophecy? (10)
20. What timetable do verses 11-12 give? Do you understand these things? (11-12)
21. What final word does the angel give Daniel in verse 13? What does it promise him? What is the significance of the word, “allotted?” See Psalm 16:5-6, 10-11. (13)

III. Summary:

The Book of Daniel closes with some final predictions about the end of the world. The angel who had given the detailed information of chapter 11 now closes with insights about the final battle over the Jews and the general resurrection. The details of Daniel’s prophecy will only be fully understandable by the generation to whom they refer. Daniel’s final word is a promise of eternal reward.

IV. Application:

1. As Christians, verse 2 shows us that we have so much to be thankful for and look forward to. But it shows the opposite for those who are not regenerate. How can this fuel our commitment to evangelism?
2. What can we learn from the confidence and authority with which the man clothed in linen (verse 7) says that all these prophecies will be completed? If we are tempted to doubt that God will do what he says, we should confess this as sin.
3. In verse 9, Daniel's request for clarification of these prophecies is met with the command for him to go his way and the statement that these things are sealed up for the end times. How can this teach us to trust God with any confusion we have about the end times?

Notes

1. Schaffner, Franklin J., director. *Patton*. Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp., 1970.
2. MacArthur, John, Host. “*The Rise and Fall of the World, Part 1*.” Grace to You, GTY.org, 25 November 1974, <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/27-07/the-rise-and-fall-of-the-world-part-1>.
3. Ibid.
4. Shakespeare, William. *King Henry IV*. Edited by Global Grey Books, 2018.



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