

Daniel Bible Study – A Chronological & Thematic Journey

As we go through this study, we'll be working directly from the Book of Daniel, but if you want to go a little deeper, I'd recommend a couple of solid resources for outside commentary:

- **David Helm's *Daniel For You*** – A clear, Christ-centered walk through the book that connects Daniel's story to the bigger gospel picture.
- **Warren Wiersbe's *Be Resolute*** – Part of the "Be" commentary series, this one is great for personal reflection and practical application.

Neither are required reading, but they can be helpful companions if you want to dig in between sessions.

We'll be studying Daniel in the order the events actually happened—not just the way they're laid out in the Bible. It helps us follow Daniel's life more naturally and see how the stories and visions connect over time. This approach isn't just about understanding prophecy or history—it's about learning how to live with faith and clarity in a world that often feels confusing.

Here's how we'll move through the study over eight sessions:

Session 1: Getting Started – Chapter 1

- **Set the Scene:** We'll talk about where Daniel fits in the Old Testament timeline—Babylon has taken over Jerusalem, and Daniel's been exiled.
- **Read & Reflect:** Daniel 1 is about standing firm in your convictions. Daniel refuses to eat the king's food, and God honors his faithfulness.
- **Talk About:** What does it look like to stay true to your values when you're outnumbered?

Session 2: Big Dreams, Bigger God – Chapter 2

- **Read & Reflect:** Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the statue—it's a strange one, but deeply meaningful.
- **Talk About:** God's in control of history, even when kingdoms rise and fall. Do we really believe that? How does that shape how we face the future?

Session 3: Faith Under Fire – Chapters 3 & 4

- **Read & Reflect:** The fiery furnace (chapter 3) and the king's pride and humbling (chapter 4).
 - **Talk About:** Courage in the fire and the importance of humility. Sometimes God shows up in the flames; sometimes He humbles us to bring us back.
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Session 4: Pulling Back the Curtain – Chapter 7

- **Read & Reflect:** Daniel's vision of the four beasts. This is our first big leap into apocalyptic prophecy.
 - **Talk About:** What does this vision tell us about the future—and why does it matter for us now? Let's connect it back to chapter 2 and see what patterns emerge.
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Session 5: The Writing on the Wall – Chapter 5

- **Read & Reflect:** Belshazzar throws a party, mocks God, and then gets a visit from a divine hand.
 - **Talk About:** Judgment, pride, and what it means to take God seriously. How do we stay grounded in a culture that often doesn't?
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Session 6: Lions and Visions – Chapters 6 & 8

- **Read & Reflect:** Daniel in the lions' den (chapter 6) and the ram and goat vision (chapter 8).
 - **Talk About:** Faithfulness when it's costly. God's still in charge, even when the politics shift. The vision can feel wild—so let's talk through what it meant then and what it tells us about God's hand in history.
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Session 7: A Prayer That Moves Heaven – Chapter 9

- **Read & Reflect:** Daniel's prayer of repentance and the prophecy of the seventy 'sevens'.
 - **Talk About:** How prayer aligns us with God's heart. We'll slow down here and really talk about repentance, intercession, and waiting on God.
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Session 8: The Final Vision – Chapters 10–12

- **Read & Reflect:** Daniel's last vision pulls it all together—spiritual warfare, prophetic insight, and resurrection hope.
- **Talk About:** What's going on behind the scenes in the spiritual realm? What can we hold onto when the world feels chaotic?

Study Guide: The Book of Daniel – Chapter 1

Overview:

In this opening chapter, we meet Daniel and his friends as they're taken into exile in Babylon. Right away, we're invited to consider what it looks like to remain faithful when everything around us changes. This isn't just the beginning of Daniel's story—it's a challenge to live with conviction, even in unfamiliar or uncomfortable circumstances.

Main Themes:

- Faithfulness under pressure
- God's provision behind the scenes
- Living with conviction in a culture that pulls in another direction

Key Verses & Commentary

Daniel 1:1–2

"In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it... And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand..."

→ **Commentary:** This chapter opens with what looks like defeat—but notice who's still in control. *"The Lord delivered Jehoiakim..."* reminds us that God is not absent, even when it seems like things are falling apart. He's at work, even through hard circumstances.

Daniel 1:3–5

"Then the king ordered Ashpenaz... to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites... to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians..."

→ **Commentary:** Babylon didn't just take people—they tried to reshape them. Daniel and his friends were immersed in a new culture, language, and worldview. This sets up the tension they'll face: Will they blend in, or stand apart?

Daniel 1:8

“But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine...”

→ **Commentary:** This is one of the most powerful verses in the chapter. Daniel didn’t rebel or cause a scene—he simply *resolved*. He made up his mind ahead of time to live in a way that honored God. That kind of quiet courage still speaks today.

Daniel 1:12–13

“Please test your servants for ten days... then compare our appearance...”

→ **Commentary:** Daniel’s faith wasn’t just personal—it was practical. He offered a solution instead of picking a fight. It’s a great reminder that faith and wisdom can go hand in hand.

Daniel 1:17

“To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding... and Daniel could understand visions and dreams...”

→ **Commentary:** God didn’t just honor Daniel’s faith—He equipped him for the future. This verse sets up what’s coming later in the book, but it also reminds us that when we honor God, He shapes us for what’s ahead.

Reflection Questions

1. Where in your life are you feeling the pressure to blend in instead of stand out?
 2. What “small” decisions might become defining moments of faith like Daniel’s?
 3. How do you see God working behind the scenes—even in hard or uncertain situations?
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Prayer Prompts

- Ask God to give you a heart like Daniel’s—steadfast, wise, and faithful.
- Pray for the courage to live out your faith when it’s not easy.
- Thank God for the ways He’s preparing you for what’s next, even if you can’t see it yet.