

## Thursday Morning Group 2021: The Book of Daniel

Program:

6. Introduction and Daniel 1: Despite appearances God is in control
7. Daniel 1, 2 & 3: The Wisdom of Faith
8. Daniel 4 & 5: God of Nations
9. Daniel 6 and Matthew's Passion Narrative: Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament
10. Daniel 7: The One like a Son of Man

### Daniel 1

#### 1:1 Setting the scene

1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah

605 BC. (Jer 25:1; 2 Ki 24:1; 2 Ch 36:5-8)

King Nebuchadnezzar ruled Babylon from ca. 605-562 B.C.

First of three deportations

#### 1:2 A Surprising introduction

Dan 1:2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.

1:2 He did what?

God gave... (Jer 25)

#### 1:3-7 Living for God in a hostile world

1:3-4 Trained as ambassadors, held as hostages

1:5 A University degree!

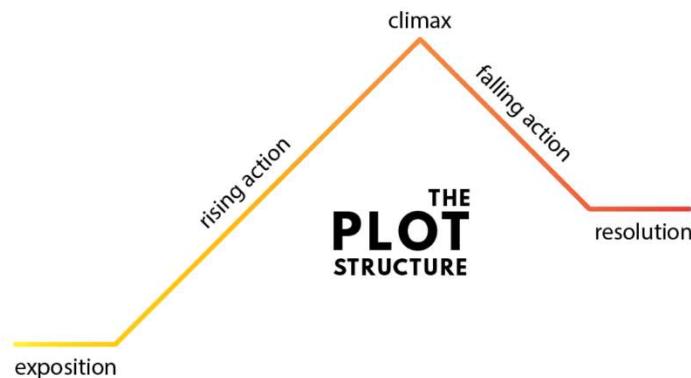
1:6 Hope for Israel – the sons of Judah

1:7 What's in a name?

In Hebrew Daniel means "God is my judge"; Hananiah means "the Lord is gracious"; Mishael means "who is what God is?"; Azariah means "the Lord has helped."

## Thursday Morning Group 2021: The Book of Daniel

### 1:8-16 The Plot Thickens (The Daniel Diet is rubbish)



<https://hobbylark.com/writing/The-Heros-Journey-A-Guide-on-Plotting-Your-Fantasy-Novel>

1:8 Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the kings food  
Perhaps unclean foods, perhaps sacrificed to idols, reason unclear.  
What is clear – Daniel wants to honor God in whatever way is left to him  
He asks permission

### 1:17-21 Wisdom and Faith

1:17 God gave... (the third time)  
1:18-20 Final exams, first in the class!  
1:21 Daniel outlasts a kingdom

Real wisdom begins with faith (James 1:5-8)

Living for God in a pagan world (1 Peter 2:12)

The legacy of faithfulness: Magi from the east (Matt 2)

## Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

### 2:1 A troubling dream

### 2:1-13 A skeptical King

2:4 A reasonable request  
2:5-6 A well reasoned unreasonable answer  
2:7-13 Panic sets in!

2:10-11 The heart of the matter ““There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or

## Thursday Morning Group 2021: The Book of Daniel

enchanter or Chaldean. The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."

### 2:14-16 Prudence and Discretion

### 2:17-18 A simple prayer for mercy

### 2:19-23 A revelation of God!

20 wisdom and might

21 times and seasons

Removes and sets up kings

Gives wisdom and knowledge

22 reveals deep and hidden things

Knows what is in the darkness, light dwells with him

23 To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's matter."

### 2:24-25 Going through the right channels

### 2:26-30 Declaring God

27 No wiseman can do this ( a rebuke to the king)

28 There is a God in heaven who can

29-30 Not because of any wisdom that I have (another rebuke to the king)

### 2:31-45 The Dream and it's interpretation

Four kingdoms (who are they)

6<sup>th</sup> C date                    2<sup>nd</sup> C date

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 1. Babylon | 1. Babylon |
| 2. Persia  | 2. Medes   |
| 3. Greece  | 3. Persia  |
| 4. Rome    | 4. Greece  |
| 5. KOG     | 5. KOG     |

### Missing the point

Don't assume chronology in apocalyptic visions!

As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

## Thursday Morning Group 2021: The Book of Daniel

Why was Nebuchadnezzar so troubled by the dream?

Dan 2:37-38 You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, (38) and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold.

### 2:46-49 The resolution

46 Nebuchadnezzar still doesn't get it

47 At least he gets something

48-49 An answered prayer, and more

## Daniel 3: Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Image

3:1 The King really doesn't get it!

### 3:2-7 Setting the scene: Ridiculous pomp and ceremony

the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials

the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music

### 3:8-12 An opportunity for a take-down

3:10 The absurdity continues

3:12 The real accusation – “These men, O king, pay no attention to you”

### 3:13-15 An absurd king

Who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?

- Nebuchadnezzar should already know the answer to his own question

### 3:16 Real wisdom begins with faith

16 You should know better!

17 Our God can

Our God will

18 But if not! We would rather die than compromise our relationship with God!

### 3:19-23 An angry king – 7 times hotter!

### 3:24-27 An unexpected result

The comedy subsides!

No smell of smoke!

### 3:27-28 Another happy ending

(But the king still doesn't get it)

## Thursday Morning Group 2021: The Book of Daniel

### Three stories of faith

1. God gives
2. God saves
3. God is to be feared above all gods

### Three stories of living for God in a hostile world

1. Honour God in your actions
2. Seek God in your need
3. Trust God with your life

Genuine faith: Rev 12:10-11 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. (11) And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.