

The Prophet Daniel



Daniel was carried away to Babylon when he was just a teenager. Separated from family, friends and brethren in the midst of a heathen land, he purposed not to defile himself and remain sanctified unto the God of his fathers. For more than seventy years Daniel served Jehovah faithfully as a prophet. His is a wonderful message of hope, renewal, restoration and redemption. In these lessons the life, example and message of the prophet will be studied. Special attention will be given to the visions of Daniel which announce the coming of the Messiah, His savage and brutal murder and the establishment of the eternal Kingdom of Heaven.

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Lesson One: *Daniel's Test as a Captive*

Lesson Aim: Learn that God tries His people in order to use them for the accomplishment of His eternal purpose.

Lesson Text: Daniel 1:1–21

Memory Verse: Daniel 1:8

Background Texts: 2 Kings 24:1–25:26; Jeremiah 43:1–44:30; 25:1–14; 29:1–32; 46:1–13.

Questions for Discussion

1. When did Nebuchadnezzar besiege Jerusalem?
2. Where did he take the vessels of the house of God?
3. Whom did he command Ashpenaz to bring with him to Babylon?
4. What qualifications were to exist in those taken?
5. How long were these captives to undergo their special training?
6. What did Daniel purpose in his heart?
7. Why was Ashpenaz fearful when Daniel refused the king's meat and wine?
8. What did Daniel request as a test?
9. What was the outcome of the test?
10. What did God give to Daniel and his companions?
11. What did the king find when he examined them?
12. Research the Hebrew and Babylonian names of the four Hebrew children. What do those names mean?

Question for Thought

Are we ever tempted like Daniel? What are some plausible reasons Daniel could have used to justify eating the king's meat? Can sin ever be justified on these grounds?

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Lesson Two: *Nebuchadnezzar's Dream*

Lesson Aim: Understand that the church of Christ is the kingdom of Old Testament promise and prophecy.

Lesson Text: Daniel 2:1–49

Memory Verse: Daniel 2:44

Background Texts: Luke 3:1–15; Matthew 16:13–28; Mark 8:31–9:1; Acts 1:1–11; 2:1–36

Questions for Discussion

1. For what purpose did Nebuchadnezzar call the wise men to himself?
2. What challenge did he set before them? What would this prove?
3. How did the wise men answer the king?
4. What decree did Nebuchadnezzar make concerning them?
5. Of what material was the image in the dream made?
6. What did the image represent?
7. What did the stone which struck the image represent?
8. When were these prophecies to be fulfilled?
9. What did Nebuchadnezzar say of Daniel's God?
10. What rewards were Daniel and his companions given?

Question for Thought

Has Daniel 2:44, 45 been fulfilled? Prove your answer from the Scriptures.

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Lesson Three: *The Test of the Fiery Furnace*

Lesson Aim: Learn that God stands by his people in the midst of all their trials when they obey Him rather than men.

Lesson Text: Daniel 3:1–30

Memory Verse: Daniel 3:17: 10

Background Texts: Acts 4:1–22; 5:17–42; Psalm 27:1–14; 34:1–22; Isaiah 43:1–23

Questions for Discussion

1. Describe the image Nebuchadnezzar made.
2. Whom did the king invite to the dedication of the image?
3. What charges were brought against Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?
4. What did Nebuchadnezzar ask these Jews whom he had set over his affairs?
5. How did they answer Nebuchadnezzar?
6. How did the king receive this answer?
7. What commandment did Nebuchadnezzar give concerning them in this matter?
8. Whom did Nebuchadnezzar see in the fiery furnace?
9. What was true of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego after being in the furnace?
10. What decree did Nebuchadnezzar issue concerning the God of the Jews?
11. What did Nebuchadnezzar say about God's ability?
12. What did Nebuchadnezzar do which showed his approval of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?

Question for Thought

What did these Jews mean when they said, "We are not careful to answer thee in this matter?" Ought we to "not be careful" to answer?

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Lesson Four: *God Humbles Nebuchadnezzar*

Lesson Air: Learn that it is God who rules in the kingdom of men.

Lesson Text: Daniel 4:1–37

Memory Verse: Daniel 4:17

Background Texts: Jeremiah 27:1–22; 51:1–12; Isaiah 10:5–19; Habakkuk 1:5–11

Questions for Discussion

1. How did Nebuchadnezzar describe God's kingdom and dominion?
2. About what did Nebuchadnezzar dream in his palace?
3. How did he react to this dream?
4. Among all the magicians, astrologers, wise-men and soothsayers, who alone could interpret the dream?
5. What was the interpretation of the dream?
6. Why was Daniel troubled by the interpretation of the dream?
7. How might it have been possible for Nebuchadnezzar to avoid the humiliation predicted in the dream?
8. When and why did all of this come upon king Nebuchadnezzar?
9. What punishment came upon Nebuchadnezzar?
10. What did Nebuchadnezzar say of God's works, ways and ability at the end of the seven times?

Question for Thought

If God rules in the kingdoms of men, why is it that wicked rulers have had control from time to time?

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Lesson Five: The Handwriting on the Wall

Lesson Aim: Learn that each of us has an allotment of days which are “numbered” after which our deeds are “weighed” and judgment is given.

Lesson Text: Daniel 5:1–31

Memory Verse: Daniel 5:25–26

Background Texts: 1 Chronicles 29:10-16; Isaiah 13:1–14:23; 21:1–10; 47:1–15; 44:24–45:7

Questions for Discussion

1. Who was in attendance at Belshazzar’s feast?
2. What vessels were used in this celebration?
3. Unto whom did Belshazzar and his guests give praise as they drank wine?
4. What appeared to Belshazzar in that same hour?
5. What did Belshazzar promise to him who could explain the appearance?
6. How came Belshazzar to send for Daniel?
7. Of what did Daniel remind Belshazzar?
8. What had Belshazzar failed to do?
9. How had he demonstrated this?
10. What was Daniel’s interpretation of the handwriting on the wall?
11. When were these things fulfilled?

Question for Thought

In what sense are Christians “weighed in the balances” and some times “found wanting?”

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Lesson Six: *Daniel in the Lion's Den*

Lesson Aim: Learn that the wicked often seek opportunities to fault and persecute those who are righteous but God's eye is always upon his children.

Lesson Text: Daniel 6:1–28

Memory Verse: Daniel 6:16

Background Texts: 1 Kings 8:22–53; Psalms 59:1–17; 62:1–12; 6:1–10; 94:1–23; 91:1–16

Questions for Discussion

1. How was the kingdom organized under Darius?
2. What accusation of fault could the princes and satraps bring against Daniel?
3. What plan did Daniel's enemies contrive in order to get rid of him?
4. When Daniel learned of the plan what did he do?
5. With whom was Darius displeased?
6. What was Darius' conviction concerning Daniel's fate in the lion's den?
7. What did the king do the night Daniel was in the lion's den?
8. Why was Daniel unharmed?
9. What became of the men who had conspired against Daniel?
10. What did Darius decree concerning Daniel's God?

Question for Thought

Give what you consider to be the reasons why wicked men seek occasions to fault and persecute the righteous.

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Lesson Seven: *Daniel's Dream of the Four Beasts*

Lesson Aim: Come to understand the interpretation of this dream and its relation to Christ and His church.

Lesson Text: Daniel 7:1–28

Memory Verse: Daniel 7:14

Background Texts: Deuteronomy 13:9–22; Revelation 13:1–18; 4:1–5:14; Acts 2:22–36

Questions for Discussion

1. When did Daniel have this dream?
2. Describe the following:
 - (a) The first beast–
 - (b) The second beast–
 - (c) The third beast–
 - (d) The fourth beast with the little horn–
 - (e) The Ancient of Days–
 - (f) The one like the Son of Man–
3. What did the four beasts represent? (Compare: 7:17 and 7:23).
4. What did the eleventh or “little horn” represent?
5. What four things would the “little horn” do?
6. How long would the saints be given to the “little horn?”
7. When would this time occur?
8. After this time what was given to the saints of the Most High?

Question for Thought

What is meant by “the saints possessed the kingdom?” When does this occur?

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Lesson Eight: *Daniel's Dream of the Ram and the He-Goat*

Lesson Aim: Come to understand the interpretation of this dream and its relation to Christ and His church.

Lesson Text: Daniel 9:1-27

Memory Verse: Daniel 8:20, 21

Background Texts: Isaiah 10:5-25; Exodus 12:10-28; Ezekiel 39:17-20; Habakkuk 2:1-4

Questions for Discussion

1. When did this vision appear to Daniel?
2. Where was Daniel in the vision?
3. Describe the Ram which Daniel saw.
4. Describe the He-goat which Daniel saw.
5. What did the He-goat do to the Ram?
6. What did this represent?
7. Who was represented in the single horn of the He-goat?
8. What sprang up to replace the one great horn of the He-goat when it was broken?
9. Whom did each of those horns represent?
10. What did the "little horn" that grew toward the south, east and Pleasant Land do?
11. Whom does this horn seem to represent?
12. How long would the "little horn" have authority over the sanctuary & host of God?

Question for Thought

The "little horn" because of transgression, amassed an "army" which opposed the "daily sacrifices." By this Daniel said he "cast truth down to the ground." In what way could he have done this? How might some do it now?

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Lesson Nine: *Daniel's Confession and Prayer*

Lesson Aim: See the fulfillment of God's promise to restore Israel upon their repentance and learn that grace though free may be conditionally bestowed.

Lesson Text: Daniel 9:1–19

Memory Verse: Daniel 9:18

Background Texts: Deuteronomy 28:15–68; 30; Nehemiah 1:1–11; 9:1–38; Ezra 1:1–11

Questions for Discussion

1. What did Daniel come to understand in the first year of Darius the Mede?
2. What did Daniel confess in his prayer to God?
3. How did Daniel exhibit his contrition?
4. Who had Israel ignored?
5. What are “the curse” and “the oath” written in the Law of Moses that were poured out on Israel?
6. What was done to Jerusalem?
7. What was the sanctuary to which Daniel refers?
8. Upon what does Daniel recognize the salvation of Israel to be dependent in 9:18?
9. How does Daniel describe Jehovah in his prayer when referring to His attributes?
10. How does Daniel describe Israel in this prayer when referring to their behavior toward God?

Question for Thought

Study Daniel 9:19. How does Daniel regard the Lord relative to the prayer and supplication he had just made? What lesson is there in this for us?

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Lesson Ten: *The Revelation of the Seventy Weeks*

Lesson Aim: Discern meaning of the seventy weeks and their relationship to the coming of Christ and the establishment of His Kingdom.

Lesson Text: Daniel 9:20–27

Memory Verse: Daniel 9:24

Background Texts: Matthew 24:1–51; 27:11–56; Luke 21:5–38; Isaiah 53:1–12

Questions for Discussion

1. What did Gabriel come forth to do?
2. When was he dispatched?
3. What six things would occur during the seventy weeks? (See: 9:24)
4. How are the seventy weeks apportioned by Gabriel?
5. What would happen during the first seven weeks?
6. What would occur during the next 62 weeks?
7. After the sixty-two weeks, during the final weeks, what would happen?
8. What is determined to happen to the one who makes desolate?

Question for Thought

Examine Ezekiel 4:6 and determine why this method of interpretation is unacceptable for the seventy weeks of Daniel 9:20–27.

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Lesson Eleven: *The Vision of the Glorious Man*

Lesson Aim: Understand to what this last vision of Daniel refers in that it is about “the latter days” and concerns the kings of Persia and Greece.

Lesson Text: Daniel 10:1–11:4

Memory Verse: Daniel 11:2

Background Texts: Jeremiah 49:34–39; 50:1–46; 51:1–64; 52:1–34

Questions for Discussion

1. When was this vision revealed to Daniel?
2. How long had Daniel been in mourning?
3. What was the appearance of the man Daniel saw?
4. Why did the men with Daniel flee?
5. Why had the Glorious Man come to Daniel?
6. Who had withstood this man and who helped him?
7. Why had Daniel lost his strength?
8. With whom was the Glorious Man going to fight?
9. What was the “truth” which the Glorious Man told Daniel concerning Persia?
10. What would happen in the realm of Greece?

Question for Thought

Consider Daniel's distress over the visions he had seen and his “loss of strength” pictured in the dream. When the angel touched him he was restored. What spiritual lesson can be learned from his experience?

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Lesson Twelve: *War between the North and South*

Lesson Aim: Come to understand the development of the struggle between Egypt and Syria over Palestine that led up to the time of the end.

Lesson Text: Daniel 11:5–45

Memory Verse: Daniel 11:27

Background Texts: Psalm 27:1–14; 33:1–22; Ezekiel 17:1–14; 30:1–26; 31:1–12; 32:1–32

Questions for Discussion

1. Who is the king of the South?
2. Who is the king of the North?
3. Which kingdom prevails in 11:6-9?
4. Which kingdom prevails in 11:10–13?
5. How does the king of the North prevail over the king of the South in 11:14-19?
6. What do the two kings of Syria in 11:20-28 do to the glorious land?
7. What does the second king do at “the appointed time?”
8. Is he successful in his campaign? Why or why not?
9. What does the king of the North choose to do instead?
10. Who joins with this king in his defilement of the sanctuary?
11. Who falls before this king?
12. What does the king do in 11:36-39? Who might this be? When does he fall?

Question for Thought

The king of 11:36 is pictured as powerful, rich and popular; “yet he shall come to his end.” What does this affirm of God and His plans?

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Lesson Thirteen: *Tribulation at the Time of the End*

Lesson Aim: Understand that the time of the end corresponds to the fall of the Jewish economy proving the indestructible character of the kingdom of God.

Lesson Text: Daniel 12:1–13

Memory Verse: Daniel 12:3

Background Texts: Luke 17:20–37; Luke 19:28–48; Luke 21:1–38; Revelation 19:20–20:6

Questions for Discussion

1. How great will be the trouble at the time Michael shall stand up?
2. Exactly who shall be delivered at that time?
3. Unto what shall many who sleep in the dust of the earth awake?
4. Who will shine as the stars forever?
5. For how long was Daniel to shut up the words and seal the book?
6. What was asked of the Glorious Man? Who asked him this?
7. When did he say all these things would be finished?
8. Who would understand?
9. With what would the 1,290 days begin?
10. Who did the Glorious Man call blessed?
11. What events mark the 1,290 days and 1,335 days?

Question for Thought

Are there any prophecies found in Daniel that are yet to be fulfilled? Explain your answer.