



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

How to Study the Bible

THROUGH THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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All resources can be directly linked from
northwake.com/resources/articles/how-to-study-the-bible-resources/

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WEEK 1 OF BIBLE STUDY

Reading Through an Entire Book Multiple Times

The Important Role of Prayer

GOALS FOR THE WEEK:

- See the value in repetitive reading
- Emphasize these values:
 - A feel for the flow of the text
 - Overview of the progression of the text
 - Not agonizing over meaning or application
- Emphasize the role of prayer in studying the Scriptures
- Incorporate prayer into study times

MATERIALS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS:

- Each student needs a printed 12 font double spaced copy of the text (provided with study).

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK: *The Lord Will Instruct His Children.*

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ~ Psalm 32:8*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

*Living God, help us to hear your holy Word
with open hearts so that we may truly understand,
and, understanding, that we may believe;
and, believing, that we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience,
seeking your honor and glory in all that we do.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.¹*

¹ Huldrych Zwingli (1484-1531), altered, as collected in The Worship Sourcebook, ed. Emily R. Brink and John D. Witvliet (Grand Rapids; Baker; Calvin Institute of Worship; Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2004), 142. (Copied from page 150 in 40 Questions about Interpreting the Bible)

BENEFITS OF REPETITIVE READING

As we study through Scriptures, we often commit to a one-year plan or—if you are really ambitious—a 90 day plan of reading the entirety of the Scriptures. Through repetitive reading, however, we can gain a big picture view of the entire Bible. We don't have to take a deep dive into what is being said or search for themes. We don't focus on repeated words or link phrases together. Instead, we can see the big picture of the story of Scripture, and that is a beautiful and wonderful thing.

It is helpful for us to see the overall flow of the Bible's story—from creation, to the fall, to Israel's call, to their history, to the prophets, to Jesus's birth, and His return. Through this overarching reading, we can gain insight into God's plans and purpose from Genesis to Revelation. In the same way, but on a much smaller scale, we are doing this when we read through an entire book of the Bible from beginning to end.

1. Have you ever committed to reading the entire Bible from beginning to end? If so, what did you gain from this method of reading the Scriptures?

If not, what seems appealing or unappealing about reading the Scriptures straight through?

When we focus on a certain book of the Bible, the goal is to understand it on a deeper level. To do this, we must first and foremost know the Scriptures. The first step in knowing the Scriptures of a certain book of the Bible is to use the same method we use to know the whole Bible—read the whole thing!

By reading an entire book, readers gain a sense of the flow of the book. The book's genre will impact the flow of the book. The book of Daniel is a bit trickier than say Philippians, which is clearly a letter to a church. Daniel incorporates several different literary styles. But when we read the book from beginning to end, we get a better sense of where the style changes and the reasons for that change.

As we read through a book, we will inevitably pick up on themes, words, and phrases that stand out in that particular book. When we read the writings of Paul or the writings of John, it is evident that there are different themes being brought to the forefront. In the same way, there is a difference between 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. Yet, **when we look at the whole book, we can better see and understand what the themes are and where they are going.**

When reading through an entire text we often find ourselves frustrated that we don't understand a particular passage. Our inadequacies in biblical literacy can often be most obvious as we take a big picture view of a book. With Daniel, there will certainly be passages that we find confusing. That confusion is actually a good thing!

This dissonance means that you are reading for understanding and you realize your limited knowledge of the biblical text before you. Let this drive you *toward* not away from the Scriptures. **By freely recognizing the difficult or confusing passages of a book, you are humbly placing yourself as a student of the Scriptures.** Humbly ask the Lord for understanding and wisdom of the passages before you.

Reading the entire book is the first step in the process of understanding the text. It isn't the end goal of this type of study to just know the words, but it is the first step to put your big toe in the water and start wrapping your head around what lies ahead.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY REPETITIVE READING? (METHODS TO THIS TYPE OF READING)

Repetitive Reading is a purposeful time of reading (or listening) to the same passage multiple times with the intention of achieving understanding.

Since this is one book and not the entire Bible, the expectation is to read it through in its entirety several times. For longer books – like Psalms, Isaiah, or Genesis – it may require breaking the whole book into smaller sections to read over and over again. With shorter books – such as Philippians or Ruth – you could reread the whole book each week during study.

The first week of our study will be devoted to repetitive reading. While reading repetitively, it will be helpful to reread the same version. As we dig deeper, there will definitely be times to look at other versions, but we want to read the same version to start with so we become familiar with the flow and catch any repetitive words or phrases.

2. **During this first week, make a goal of reading through the entire book at least 3 times.** As mentioned earlier, repetitive "reading" can include listening. Use the Dwell or Holy Bible app.

What stands out to you about the book of Daniel after the first read?

HOW TO IMPLEMENT REPETITIVE READING INTO YOUR STUDY OF DANIEL

For shorter books, it is wise to reread through the entire book each week. Since Daniel is a longer book, rereading every week might be too much. Make a goal to reread the entire book every two to three weeks. As you begin to study and dig deeper, you will have more insight into the book as a whole.

You should aim to read the entire chapter several times in the week that it is assigned. For example: in Week 3 of the study, we begin to work through just Chapter 1. During Week 3, make a goal to read through all of Chapter 1 at least twice. When doing these overviews, read without the intent of marking up the passages or answering the questions. Instead, read with the purpose of engaging with the narrative. Take note of what stands out in your mind as you become more familiar with the texts. Other chapters of Daniel are a bit longer, but the goal every week is to read the entire chapter repetitively.

HUMILITY IS THE FIRST INGREDIENT OF LEARNING

Humility in our culture and society often receives a bad reputation. The world sees it as a weakness. Humble people don't become a success and let others walk all over them. Within the church we don't do much better. Humility is often portrayed as a quiet non-riled up person who sits quietly and serenely while spreading peaceful joy wherever he or she goes and is perpetually happy and full of wisdom. Isn't this more a picture of the Dalai Lama than Jesus? So what is Christian humility? Well, honestly I don't have the time or space to answer that question fully. However, in order to study scripture well we need to approach it humbly, and because of that we need to have a basic understanding of humility. So, let's start by Googling "Humility" and recording the definition below.

1. Define Humility:

(Depending on what definition you recorded you might have listed a low view of one's importance or freedom from pride and arrogance.)

2. Is this a good enough working definition for us as Christians? Yes or no, and why?

SO WHAT IS BIBLICAL HUMILITY?

3. Read Luke 18:10-14 – Who was justified? Why was he justified? What was the posture of his heart and mind before the Lord?

Read Matthew 23:8-12 – Who will be called greatest? Who is the ultimate authority? What posture are we to have before God? Men?

Read Isaiah 66:2 – The Lord looks upon the humble. What qualifies a humble person according to this passage? Why should one tremble at God’s word?

Humility is nicely defined in Proverbs 3:5-7 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.”

4. List the elements of humility in these verses:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

5. Combining your findings, write your own definition of biblical humility.

THE LINK BETWEEN HUMILITY AND PRAYER

Now that you have a firm grasp on Biblical humility, let's explore the link between humility and prayer – with emphasis on the study of Scripture. Prayer at its heart is a conversation between a child and their Heavenly Father. The reading of the Holy Scriptures is the main way we come to know and understand our Heavenly Father.

6. What does prayer personally mean to you? Tell of a time when prayer made an impact on your life.

Prayer, as it relates to the study of the Scriptures, is more than just a step along the way. It is the way we implore the Holy Spirit to lead us and teach us during our time of study. Our lack of prayer or acknowledgment of the need for the Lord to be part of our time of study, turns our study from a spiritual pursuit to an intellectual pursuit. Prayer turns our hearts away from the pride of gaining head knowledge to the heart's pursuit of our Heavenly Father.

7. Romans 8:26-27

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ~Romans 8:26-27

- "The Spirit helps us in our weakness." **How might this apply to our study of Scripture?**

8. We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to understand the Scriptures.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ~ John 14:26

a) What promise does Jesus give to the disciples in this verse?

Jesus continues to speak of the Spirit in John 16:

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. (vs 7)

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (Vs. 13-14)

b) What reasons does Jesus give that it was a good thing for Him to go away and the Helper to come?

c) How should we view the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we seek to understand the Scriptures?

As we study to know the Scriptures, we must seek the help of the Holy Spirit. We ask the Lord to give us wisdom to see beyond our own circumstances and experiences. We humbly admit that—left to our own devices—we will twist the Holy Word to fit into our understanding and desires.

- 4. **Read Psalm 119:25-32 (Optional - add verses 17-24 as well to get an even larger picture)**
 - **Make a list of your role in the study of Scripture and the promises (or rewards) of God as you study His word.**

My Role in the Study of Scripture	God's Promises or Rewards as a Result

WAYS TO INCORPORATE PRAYER INTO YOUR TIMES OF STUDY

Many of the sections of Psalm 119 can be used as a prayer when you begin your study. There are 22 sections. If you prayed one every day when you study, then you would pray through all of Psalm 119 several times before the end of your study through Daniel!! You could also use each section as a daily prompt for how to pray for the Lord to guide you during your time of study.

Prayer at the beginning of each session can help to focus your time. In your prayers, thank the Lord for His Word. Thank him that He chose to communicate with His people and has blessed us with an amazing way to grow in our knowledge of Him. Admit your limitations and weaknesses as you begin to study. Admit that, on your own, you lack proper understanding. This praise and admission will bring your heart to a place of humility.

As you pray, ask the Lord for ears to hear and eyes to see. Boldly ask the Lord to reveal Himself to you during your time of study and boldly ask that He reveal your need for Him more clearly.

Finish your time of study with thankfulness. Before closing the study and walking away, pause for a moment of prayer. Thank the Lord for what He has revealed. Or thank the Lord that—even if you are walking away more confused than you started—you know He will be there and guide you as you seek His face.

At the beginning of each week, you will find a prayer that you can use as a prompt for your time of study. Different people pray in different ways. Some love to use a Psalm as a prayer prompt, others love to find other meaningful Scripture, others love prayers past saints have penned, and some love to use an acronym to help them. Whatever method you prefer, use it, and let it stir your heart towards the Lord as you seek understanding of Scripture.

- 1. How do you foresee imbedding prayer into your time of study? What realistic goals can you set for making prayer a part of your study?**

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY TIME

Remember these first weeks are to be done without referring to a commentary. This is just you engaging your heart and mind with the Word of God. There will come a time to consult references and commentaries, but that is further down the road.

1. How do you see God's attributes on display in the book of Daniel?

2. What are God's plans and purposes that are being acted out in the book of Daniel?

3. What do you find confusing in the book of Daniel?

4. Write a brief summary (no more than 5 sentences) of what the book of Daniel is about. (It is okay if by the end of the study you want to change this summary. That just shows that you have been learning.)

WEEK 2 OF BIBLE STUDY

Historical Context

GOALS:

- Gain a historical understanding of the book of Daniel
- Comprehend the original purpose of the author
- Understand the culture surrounding the book of Daniel

MATERIALS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS:

- Online Resources
 - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/daniel/#overview> (No matter how excited you are, only read the sections labeled Author and Date, and Genre and Setting.)
 - <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/41140/41140-h/41140-h.htm> (This one you have to scroll down to find the table of contents, but it is a full book online with lots of information and maps.)
- Printed Copy of Daniel
- Study Bible introductions to the book of Daniel (optional)
- History books (or google search)
- Yellow and Green Highlighter

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK: *God is Eternal.*

*To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. 1 Timothy 1:17*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

*Almighty God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet was without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose, he gave himself up to death and, rising from the grave, destroyed death and made the whole creation new. We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord, our God. (from *The Worship Sourcebook*)*

This week, you will begin digging deeper and marking up your copy of Daniel. To do this, you will reread the entire book at least once this week.

ACTIVITIES FOR WEEK 2: *These are to be done for the entire book of Daniel.*

1. Highlight every reference to a king in yellow.
2. Highlight every mention of days, weeks, months, and years in green.
3. Mark every reference to prayer in your own distinctive way.

WHY BOTHER WITH HISTORICAL CONTEXT?

I remember in our early years at seminary, the professors seemed to fall into one of two groups. Group one believed the historical context of a passage didn't matter and could be ignored when studying Scripture. The other group thought that in order to gain biblical comprehension one must have a complete understanding of the historical context.

Jerry and I were very confused. We are both history nerds. We are that family that has season passes to Williamsburg, VA, and often our trips land us at a historical monument. We love learning about the past. But we didn't know what impact this should have when it came to the study of Scripture.

Would we be unable to understand Scripture if we didn't know every detail of the historical setting? That didn't seem right. But it also didn't seem right that the history surrounding a book wasn't important at all.

We eventually found that there was a third group—one that held the historical context as a thing of importance but not so high that it negated the fact that the Holy Word is active and alive to those who earnestly seek God's face.

The question must still be answered though—*why is historical setting important?*

1. **How important do you think the historical setting is to being able to understand what the Bible says?**

To put this in a more modern setting, consider the female code breakers of World War 2. Why does this story fascinate people? Because it went against the culture of the day. Women were thought not to be as intelligent as men. They were thought of as "less than" in the culture that surrounded them. In fact, one reason women were tasked with code breaking was that it was considered boring work that was beneath men. Yet, we know it took great patience and intelligence, and they helped to turn the tide of war. Their story doesn't change because of our knowledge of their historical setting, but it is more impactful because of that knowledge.

If we took away the culture and prevailing thought of the day, then we wouldn't rightly understand their story. By understanding the world around them, we gain a deeper understanding of these women and their place in history.

Likewise, Biblical history seeks to understand the big picture of the world around the text of the Scripture. What were the cultural norms? What were the big historical events? Where in the timeline of history are these things taking place? What do we know of the leaders and government around them that impacted their daily lives?

These steps of deep thinking and unearthing of information are some of the first steps toward exegetical thinking.

2. Using a basic dictionary, define Exegesis (especially as it relates to a text):

3. From this definition, what type of work is needed to engage Scriptures exegetically?

In defining these terms, we comprehend that the study of Scripture is more than merely glancing at the text. What lies before us is a task. One better achieved by seeking to understand the author and his original audience.

These are the divine words of the Lord to His people. Because of that truth, you can read a book without background knowledge and still walk away with understanding. But if we desire to truly dig deep into the text, then taking the time to answer these questions will be extremely profitable.

HOW TO FIND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Research. That's right, we are reaching deep into the recesses of our brain and pulling out skills we learned from 11th grade history. We/you will do research. How far down the rabbit hole you want to go will determine how much research you do.

Maybe you just want the basic answers and then you will move on. Maybe you want to learn more about all the kings mentioned in Daniel, so you start googling their names. Maybe you really want to know what the geography was like that surrounded Daniel, so you look up pictures of the area. Perhaps you want to know about the food in that region and time period. You can be as elaborate or as simple in this step as you want. The goal is to form a basic knowledge of the *who, what, where, and when* of the passage.

You may want to scour the internet and look through books to complete this step. If so, refer to the online resources given at the beginning of the lesson. This step is often as simple as reading the introduction to the book you are studying. Study Bibles often include a page or two with all the background information you may need for a book.

If you do not have access to a study Bible or commentary, I suggest visiting this post on the Gospel Coalition.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/daniel/#author-date>

Explore the *Author, Date, and Settings* sections, but please hold off on reading further. A large part of this Bible study is to develop your own thoughts and conclusions before consulting outside resources.

WHO WROTE IT?

This might seem like a simple place to start—because it is. We aren't seeking the author to prove the reliability of the text. We come to the Scriptures accepting that they are the word of God, written by a particular author with full authority. (1 Peter 1:10-12, 1 Timothy 3:16).

Yet, we also recognize that the Lord chose this particular person to write this particular text, and for that reason, it is profitable to know about the author. There are times we don't have a specific answer of authorship. But this too can shape our understanding of the text before us.

- 4. Is there a debate about who wrote the book of Daniel? If so, what are the different views of authorship? (Summarize in one or two sentences.)**

- 5. What is your conclusion about the authorship of Daniel? Is there other information about the author you would like to record?**

WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN?

The goal of dating a book is to pin down when the book was penned and/or distributed to its readers. This information helps to identify other books that were written around the same time and where this book falls in the timeline of Scripture.

Finding the date of a book also leads us to an understanding of how the book would have been understood by its original audience. It brings to light the social structures, gender roles, political wars, government, geography, and accepted cultural norms. With this information in hand, we can begin to ask the right questions about the author and audience.

- 6. When was the book of Daniel written? (If you find different views, try to determine which view you agree with.)**

WHO IS THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE?

Each book of the Bible was written for a specific audience, and that audience was not us. With that in mind, we also know the Scriptures are alive and active, and they do shape and change us today. However, the original audience shouldn't be ignored. Knowledge of who they were helps us understand the Scriptures more deeply.

7. Who was the intended audience of the book of Daniel?

WHAT IS THE LITERARY STYLE OR GENRE OF THE BOOK?

In the Bible, we encounter various styles of writing. Most often, the type of literature is used for a purpose. Paul writes letters. The author of Song of Solomon writes in poetry. Amos writes prophecies. It isn't lessening the importance or validity of Scripture to recognize that the text is, at its core, literature.

We encounter different styles of writing everyday. When cooking, we are given step-by-step directions so we can get the recipe correct. When reading a novel, we follow a plot. When reading a friend's text, it is often short, sweet, and to the point with a much more personal feel. Depending on the person who wrote it and the style it was written in, we interpret the information differently. These same principles apply when reading Scripture.

In Daniel, there are several different genres. As we read, we flow through the text differently than if it was all written as historical narrative, poetry, or prophecy.

8. List a few of the literary styles you find in Daniel and where they are found.

Literary Style	Chapters where this style is found

The main two styles found throughout Daniel are narrative and prophecy. We will explore both of these in depth in later weeks.

WHAT WAS THE AUTHOR'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE?

For this week's lesson we want to think in generic terms. I find the list from 2 Timothy 3:16 as a wonderful starting point for this task. Is the text for teaching, correction, training in righteousness? Is the Scripture written to a particular group as with the epistles? Was it written to warn the readers or to encourage the readers? Maybe it was written to record the history of a people? Or the life of a person?

When approaching Daniel, consider the big picture. What do you think was the intended purpose for this original audience? Why tell the stories of Daniel? Of the Kings? Of Daniel's friends? Why record the visions?

The author had an intended purpose for writing these things down. We need to take the time to honor their purposes by not skipping ahead to what this means for us, but by thinking through what it meant for them.

- 9. The book of Daniel records historical events as well as prophecies for the exiled children of the Lord (in Judah and Jerusalem) and for those being held captive in Babylon. What is the original purpose?**

QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY TIME

1. What attributes of God did you notice in the book of Daniel this week?

2. What deeper insights did you gain about God's plans and purposes in this week's study?

3. Is there anything about the timeline or authorship of Daniel that you find confusing?

4. What is one question you hope to have answered by the end of your study through the book of Daniel?

5. What part of Daniel are you most excited to explore further?

If you want to dig into the debate of when was Daniel written. I would suggest reading this article:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/daniel/#author-date>

We will refer back to this article at various times, but don't skip ahead and read.

WEEK 3 OF BIBLE STUDY

Outlining an Entire Book and Marking up Passages

DANIEL 1

GOALS:

- Write a wide-angle lens view outline for the entire book of Daniel
- Identify repeated patterns, words, or themes within Daniel

MATERIALS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS:

- Printed copy of Daniel (Provided with study)
- Variety of colored pencils
- Pens and/or Pencils
- Highlighters
- Notecards to record symbols on

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK: *The Lord Gives Strength to His Obedient Children.*

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. ~ 2 Chronicles 16:9*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

*DIRECT us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favour,
and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued,
and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy,
obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Common Book of Prayers)*

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK: (Don't start until instructed in the lesson.)

1. Create a wide-angle lens outline for the entire book of Daniel.
2. Create your own symbols or use the symbols at the end of this lesson and begin marking up Chapter 1.
3. Look for and mark Eye Openers.
 - a) Attributes of God (blue)
 - b) Prophecies or Representations of Christ (red)
 - c) Holy Spirit's work (green)
 - d) Questions or Confusion ???? (orange)
 - e) Cross References (purple)

CREATING AN OUTLINE FOR AN ENTIRE BOOK

How long has it been since you have outlined a piece of literature? If it has been years, you might be wondering what I mean by outline. At its core, an outline is a concise way to organize thoughts and topics found within literature. An outline breaks down the main and supporting ideas, grouping them together in an organized way that provides an overview of an entire text in a glance.

Outlining is one of the hardest Bible study tools for me. I am what I call a recovering perfectionist. As far as I know, this isn't an actual term but one that I live up to. I desire to do things the right way, the "perfect" way, the first time. And for all my years of study, I never get an outline right the first time. I'm learning that is okay! I hope to convince you that is okay as well.

Here is an example from The Gospel Coalition for 1 Samuel to give a visual idea of what a completed outline might look like:

1 SAMUEL OUTLINE

1. The Story of Samuel (1:1-7:17)
 - i. Rise of Samuel as prophet (1:1-4:1a)
 1. Birth and dedication of Samuel (1:1-28)
 2. Hannah's song (2:1-10)
 3. Samuel, and Eli's two sons (2:11-36)
 4. Call of Samuel as a prophet (3:1-4:1a)
 - ii. Story of the ark of God (4:1b-7:1)
 1. Capture of the ark (4:1b-22)
 2. The ark in Philistia (5:1-12)
 3. Return of the ark (6:1-7:1)
 - iii. Judgeship of Samuel (7:2-17)
2. Transition to the Monarchy (8:1-22)
3. The Story of Saul (9:1-15:35)
 - i. Saul made king (9:1-11:15)
 1. Saul's meeting with Samuel (9:1-27)
 2. Anointing of Saul and his election (10:1-27)
 3. Making Saul king (11:1-15)
 - ii. Samuel's address to Israel (12:1-25)
 - iii. Reign of Saul (13:1-15:35)
 1. Saul and the Philistines—first rejection of Saul (13:1-23)
 2. Saul and Jonathan (14:1-52)
 3. Saul and the Amalekites—second rejection of Saul (15:1-35)

4. The Story of Saul and David (16:1-31:13)
 - i. Introduction of David (16:1-23)
 1. Anointing of David (16:1-13)
 2. David at Saul's court (16:14-23)
 - ii. David and Goliath: battle at the Valley of Elah (17:1-54)
 - iii. Saul, Jonathan, and David (17:55-18:5)
 - iv. Saul becomes David's enemy (18:6-30)
 - v. Saul's attempts to kill David (19:1-20:42)
 - vi. David's escape from Saul (21:1-26:25)
 1. David's escapes (21:1-23:29)
 2. David spares Saul at Engedi (24:1-25:1)
 3. David marries Abigail (25:2-44)
 4. David spares Saul at the hill of Hachilah (26:1-25)
 - vii. David in Philistia (27:1-30:31)
 1. David and Achish (27:1-12)
 2. The Philistines gather for war (28:1-2)
 3. The medium of En-dor (28:3-25)
 4. The Philistine rulers reject David (29:1-11)
 5. Amalekite raid on Ziklag and David's victory (30:1-31)
 - viii. Deaths of Saul and Jonathan (31:1-13)

This outline is for the entire book of 1 Samuel and is very detailed. This is not your goal for this week. Your outline will grow as your study deepens through the book of Daniel. The outline you will begin this week is for the entire book of Daniel. Think of this as the wide-angle lens or panoramic view of the book. The purpose of this first piece of the outline is to identify the structure of the book.

An example of a panoramic outline—the kind you're writing this week—of 1 Samuel would break down this way:

1. The story of Samuel (1:1-7:17)
2. Transition to the Monarchy (8:1-22)
3. The Story of Saul (9:1-15:35)
4. The Story of Saul and David (16:1-31:13)

To create your outline, there are two methods I recommend. The first is to put your outline into a Google Document or other document program on your computer. This will allow you to add to and change your outline easily.

The second is to do this on paper in a notebook or on a blank sheet in your study book. This method will require several sheets, and you will continually update your outline throughout the study. By the end of the study, you might have 10 or 15 different pieces of paper that show the progression of your outline. Either way, it allows you to make

the necessary changes to your outline. By the end of the study, the outline should be a visual representation of how far your understanding of Daniel has grown.

By this week, you have read through the book of Daniel at least four times. You have also marked time, kings, and prayer. You have answered questions about literary style and intended audience. Each step should have familiarized you better with the book as a whole.

NOW BEFORE WE JUMP IN, QUICKLY GLANCE BACK THROUGH THE BOOK.

To build your outline, think through these questions:

- Where does the literary style change?
- Is there a shift in the author's writing focus?
- Is there a major shift in the timeline?
- Are there themes or repeated phrases beginning or ending a section?

These questions will help you create your panoramic outline.

There is a strong chance that your outline will only have two or three sections. It might look something like this:

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

1. It started like this (Chapters _____)
2. Something else important happened (Chapters _____)
3. Then there was this other thing (Chapters _____)

That might be all you have right now, and that is perfectly alright! Remember you have twelve more weeks to add to this outline. It will grow as your understanding of Daniel grows.

- **Create your panoramic outline for the entire book of Daniel using whatever method you've chosen. You can even record your first one right here.**

ADDING TO AND FINISHING THE OUTLINE

Though this week's first assignment is only to complete the most basic outline, there will be a time very soon (like the end of this week) that you may want to expand your outline. As you dig into the passages, more important sections will appear. When building an outline, you are looking for the larger picture and then the main details—not all the details—that support that picture.

Below is the link to the outline of Daniel The Gospel Coalition has created. Please only refer to it *after* you have begun creating yours. If you feel they worded it better, or clarified something in a way you love, that is great-use it. The goal is to not conform your outline to someone else's, but to use other's to help you form yours.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/daniel/#outline>

MAKING A PURPOSEFUL MESS: MARKING UP YOUR PASSAGE

Sometimes making a mess is absolutely the most fun thing to do!! This is my favorite tool when studying the Scriptures. Although we will spend this week only focused on Chapter 1, we will mark every chapter from this week on. It will lay much of the groundwork for easily connecting the chapters—for seeing the bigger picture of the book as a whole. Yet, this tool also helps to uncover the hidden nuggets that you might bypass.

This week, we are going to begin marking up the passages even more than you already have. Provided in this study is a key with some suggestions you can use to begin your marking journey. Mark not only words but also topics—such as God's attributes or prophecies of Christ. These themes will be further explained later.

Feel free to create symbols that make the most sense to you. If you don't like symbols, feel free to get that huge collection of colored pencils and go to town. Maybe you are a black-and-white, no color person. That is fine as well!

No matter what method you use, create a key to refer back to. This key will help your markings to be consistent across the whole book. Since you should have read the book enough to have a general grasp of the material, the words you find important enough to mark are completely up to you. Remember this is *your* study.

- **Grab a notecard and begin making a list of words and symbols to use for your study.**

EYE OPENERS

Our purposeful mess doesn't end with marking up a particular set of words. Key topics or "eye openers" are also very helpful to mark. It's unlikely every topic will be in every chapter. But you should keep your eyes open for them. Remember these colors listed with each category are just suggestions, not requirements! Some students love everything color coded and others don't. Find what works best for you.

The goal of this study is to meditate on the word of the Lord. We aim to dig deep and gain understanding.

So we look at more than just the words on the page. We look to how those words invite us to a deeper walk with Christ and a joyful understanding of our Heavenly Father.

EYE OPENER #1: ATTRIBUTES OF GOD (BLUE)

Each time we approach the Scriptures, we need to look for truths of who God is and what He is doing. For our study, we will call these the Attributes of God. Richard Lints gives the following definition: "The Attributes of God are the character traits of God as they are revealed to us in the Scriptures." (from The Gospel Coalition)

For our purposes we are including the acts or works of God in this category of attributes because God's acts and works also reveal who He is.

- 1. Look through Chapter 1 and mark the attributes of God. These are passages and texts that speak to who God is and what He is doing. (Mark all these in blue either by underlining or writing it in the margins.)**
 - Examples from Daniel 6:
 - Daniel 6:26 - God is Living
 - Daniel 6:26 - He endures forever
 - Daniel 6:26 - His Kingdom will never be destroyed and His dominion will never come to an end.

EYE OPENER #2: PROPHECIES OR REPRESENTATIONS OF CHRIST (RED)

Prophecies or representations of Christ are fun to look for. Opinions vary about these, and at times, they can be hard to identify. But the time and effort is worth it.

OT (Old Testament) scholars disagree on this topic. If you are not careful, you might find yourself in the middle of a debate between two scholars of varying opinions – not that I am speaking from personal experience or anything. (Cue eye roll. I promise there are advantages and disadvantages to being married to an OT professor.)

But back on to the topic—throughout the book of Daniel, you will come across passages where you wonder or suspect or have been taught that they are a foreshadowing, sign, representation, or prophecy of Christ. You need to mark those. Realize I didn't say you need to know the answer. If you *suspect* it falls into this category, mark it! It is good to see where you think these moments take place and have them to discuss with members of your study group. You don't need to make a theological statement or worry about being heretical. Simply observe the text, and if you mark something and later decide you marked incorrectly, you learned something. And that is great!

- **Look through Chapter 1 and mark (in red) any passages that speak to a prophecy or representation of Christ.**

EYE OPENER #3: HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK (GREEN)

We certainly don't want to leave out the third part of the Trinity. If the last category can be hard to find, this one may be even more difficult. Most times in the OT, the work of the Spirit falls under the radar. That doesn't mean that He isn't present. This exercise will challenge you to look for the work of the third part of the Trinity. He won't be everywhere or in every chapter, but don't miss where He is and what He is doing.

If looking for the Holy Spirit in the OT is a new task for you then you might find this article helpful.

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holy-spirit/10-roles-of-the-holy-spirit-in-the-old-testament.html>

- **Look through Chapter 1 and mark (in green) any works of the Holy Spirit.**

EYE OPENER #4: QUESTIONS AND CONFUSION

This category is pretty self explanatory. If you are studying and you have questions or you are confused, mark them, write them out in the margins, or circle them. Do not ignore them. Questions are great! Confusion is fine as well! You won't learn unless you go the extra mile to find the answers.

- **Look through Chapter 1 and mark or write any questions you have or confusing parts in orange.**

EYE OPENER #5: CROSS-REFERENCES

The more you study, the more often something you are studying reminds you of something else you have read in the Bible. Often, study Bibles will have these cross-references for you. Since you have a printed copy that doesn't have all these references, create them on your copy. Even if your study Bible doesn't list a particular passage but you think they're connected, write it down.

- **Look through Chapter 1 and record any cross references to other passages.**

You have done a ton of work in Daniel Chapter 1, and I hope you are excited to see how much more you understand about the text.

QUESTIONS

1. What attributes of God did you notice in the book of Daniel this week?

2. What deeper insights did you gain about God's plans and purposes in this week's study?

3. What have you learned about King Nebuchadnezzar from Chapter 1?

4. Why were the youth brought to Nebuchadnezzar?

5. In verse 7, we are told that Nebuchadnezzar changed the names of the four friends. Look up (google works great) the meaning of their original names and the names they were given. Record your findings in the chart below.

Daniel –	Beltashazzar –
Hananiah –	Shadrach –
Mishael –	Meschach –
Azariah –	Abednego –

What is significant about the changing of names? What does that mean for these four men in Chapter 1?

6. Verse 8 states "But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself...". What do you think the Scriptures teach about why Daniel made a request to change his diet?

7. Consider adding any new information from Chapter 1 to your outline.

Key Word Symbols For the book of Daniel

 GOD

KING



UNDERSTAND

DREAMS



WISDOM

WORSHIP



FOREVER

DOWN



HEAVEN

COMMAND



INTERPRETATION

KINGDOM



WEEK 4 OF BIBLE STUDY

Working With Dreams in Scripture

DANIEL 2

GOALS:

- To gain an understanding of how to interact with dreams and visions in Scripture especially as they pertain to Daniel
- To be able to break down the key components of the dream and its interpretation
- To be able to identify attributes of God in this literary genre.

MATERIALS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS:

- Printed out copy of Daniel (provided)
- Variety of Colored Pencils
- Pens and/or Pencils
- Highlighters
- Notecard with Symbols

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK: *God Hears Our Prayers.*

*When he calls, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.
With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation. ~Psalm 91:15-16*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

*God of light, we have been so blind when truth has been so clear. When we could have looked ahead, we fell behind. When we could have viewed the wider picture, we saw only a part. When we could have sensed the Spirit leading, we missed the way. Forgive our dim apprehension of love's clear leading. Give us faith that trusts when it cannot see, through the light that lingers when all else fails, even the bright Morning Star of our faith, Jesus Christ, the Savior.
Amen.*

ACTIVITIES FOR DANIEL 2:

1. Using the symbols on your notecard, mark up Chapter 2. Pay particular attention to any recurring words or phrases that need to be marked.
2. Look for and mark Eye Openers.

DREAMS IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

I am fascinated by the dreams and visions that are recorded in the Old Testament. In our modern Western world, we don't give much thought to dreams other than to consider how wild our minds are. However, dreams were important to ancient cultures. They looked to them for guidance and wisdom.

According to Britannica Encyclopedia, there was an ancient belief that dreams could predict the future. A king's dream could mean the ability to predict the future and take action for or against what was coming.

There are various ancient manuscripts that have records of dreams as well as how to interpret them. In fact in the city of Nineveh, a dream guide was found dating back to 668-627 B.C. Even in pagan religions, they believed a deity of some sort gave dreams. Since the book of Daniel was written in ancient times, it seems fitting that we understand the significance of dreams to the people of these settings.

If you would like to read further on this topic, this link will lead you to the article from Britannica.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/dream-sleep-experience/Dreams-as-a-source-of-divination#ref423080>

DREAMS AND VISIONS OF THE BIBLE

Though many cultures revered dreams, we need to remember that dreams in Scripture were a way that the Lord communicated with His people at specific places and times. Not every person in the Bible that had a dream was an Israelite or child of God. Not every dream led to a kingdom conquest. Not every dream was interpreted the same way. They must be examined within the context of the passage.

Throughout Daniel, there are several dreams and visions. Before we begin breaking down pieces to identify, we must gather information from Chapter 2. In Daniel 2:1, we are told Nebuchadnezzar had dreams and what he saw troubled him to the point he couldn't sleep.

1. Read Daniel 2:1-6.

a) Whom did Nebuchadnezzar call on to help?

b) What information did they want?

c) Why do you think the king refused to give them the information?

2. Read Daniel 2:7-16.

a) What does the king accuse them of in verses 8-9?

b) Why do they say they cannot give the king what he wants? (vs. 11)

At this point in Daniel, the king grows furious and has what could be classified as a bit of an overreaction. (Vs. 12: He orders all the wise men of Babylon to be killed.) Daniel and his friends are also ordered to be killed, but they were never brought before the king. They were guilty by association.

c) What does Daniel do, and what does he request? (vs. 16)

d) Compare and contrast Daniel's request to what Nebuchadnezzar accused the others of trying to do. (vs. 8)

3. Read Daniel 2:17-19. Four important steps take place in these verses.

- Daniel _____ to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.
- Daniel instructs them to _____.
- The mystery was revealed to Daniel while he _____.
- Daniel woke and _____.

4. Read Daniel's song of praise to the Lord for the interpretation in Daniel 2:20-23.

- What attributes and works of God does Daniel recognize in his song? (I have provided a few lines, but that doesn't mean you need to fill out an exact number. This is your Bible study—make it personal.)

There can be a temptation to run rabbit trails and search for the impact of these dreams. If you want to chase that rabbit, feel free. However, we don't want to lose the forest for the trees.

Key elements to look for when reading a passage about a dream:

- 1) Who had the dream?
- 2) Who interpreted the dream ?
- 3) What was the interpretation of the dream?
- 4) What biblical purpose did the dream serve?
- 5) What was the impact on those in the texts (and us, if applicable)?

QUESTION #1: WHO HAD THE DREAM?

This question gives us a basic understanding of what the text is communicating. The receiver of the dream matters. God is choosing to communicate with not only His people but also those that aren't His people. In Genesis, the Pharaoh has dreams. The Lord uses these for the good of His people. There is a plan and purpose behind who has the dream.

1. **Who has the dream in Daniel 2?**

QUESTION #2: WHO INTERPRETS THE DREAM?

Often an outside interpreter isn't needed. Many times in the Bible the dreamer is able to decipher their own dream. But in the book of Daniel, there will be various interpreters. Pay close attention to who is interpreting the dream, and who is giving them the knowledge to do so.

2. **Read Daniel 2:27-28. Whom does Daniel credit for the interpretation? How does Daniel view himself in verse 30?**

QUESTION #3: WHAT WAS THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DREAM?

This part is often the longest and most confusing part. For that reason, we are going to work on a new skill: summarizing. You have read this text multiple times and are very familiar with it. Now you have to condense the message. In 3-5 short sentences, clearly communicate the interpretation that Daniel gave to Nebuchadnezzar.

Summarizing forces us to think through key details and main ideas without getting lost in the small details. If someone asks you about the overall gist of the dream without looking at the text, they are looking for a summary.

- 3. Summarize the interpretation in your own words in 3 to 5 sentences.**

QUESTION #4: WHAT BIBLICAL PURPOSE DID THE DREAM SERVE?

Scripture serves a purpose, and these dreams are recorded for a purpose. What is it? The last question asked you to summarize. This step asks you to think about why the dream plays a part in the bigger picture of Scripture. We will talk more in depth about the bigger picture next week, but for now, use these questions as a prompt. Is there a foretelling of Christ? Is there a foretelling of what will come of the exiles? Is there a warning? Is there an instruction to the dreamer? Is there a lesson to be learned?

- 4. What Biblical purpose did the dream serve?**

QUESTION #5: WHAT WAS THE IMPACT ON THOSE IN THE TEXT? (AND US, IF APPLICABLE)

Usually when a dreamer understands the dream, they take some sort of action. In Genesis 20, Abimelech confronted Abraham about Sarah. In Genesis 41, Joseph was given a new position. The dream can impact both the dreamer and the interpreter.

- 5. What was the impact on those in the text? (and us, if applicable)**
 - a) How did Nebuchadnezzar respond to the interpretation? (verses 46-47)**

b) What was the impact for Daniel and his friends because of the interpretation?

c) Is there any impact or lesson for us today?

If you want to study more about dreams, there is a chart on overviewbible.com that shows a graph of dreams from the Scriptures. It is a quick, well done reference to the dreams of the Bible.

<https://overviewbible.com/infographic-dreams-bible/>

QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY TIME

1. What attributes of God did you notice in the book of Daniel this week?

2. What deeper insights did you gain about God's plans and purposes in this week's study?

3. If you have any questions from Chapter 2 and haven't written them down, please record them here.

4. Consider adding any information from Chapter 2 to your outline.

WEEK 5 OF BIBLE STUDY

Understanding the Big Biblical Picture in the Smaller Text

DANIEL 3

GOALS:

- To gain knowledge of different ideas of the big Biblical picture
- To be able to apply this knowledge to Daniel 3
- To assess which pieces of a passage fit with which big picture ideas

MATERIALS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS:

- Printed copy of Daniel (Provided with Study)
- Variety of Colored Pencils
- Pens and/or Pencils
- Highlighters
- Notecards of Symbols

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK: GOD IS NEAR TO US.

*For what great nation is there that has a god as near to it as
the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? ~Deuteronomy 4:7*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Almighty and most merciful God, from you comes every good and perfect gift. We give you praise and thanks for all your mercies. Your goodness has created us, your bounty has sustained us, your discipline has chastened us, your patience has borne with us, your love has redeemed us.

Give us a heart to love and serve you, and enable us to show our thankfulness for all your goodness and mercy by giving up ourselves to your service and cheerfully submitting in all things to your blessed will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen. (from The Worship Sourcebook)

ACTIVITIES FOR DANIEL 3:

1. Use the symbols on your notecard to mark up Chapter 3.
2. Look for and mark Eye Openers.

BIG PICTURE NOT A SINGULAR EVENT

This week, our focus is on Daniel 3. It records one of the most well-known historical events in all of Scripture. This story has been told through every avenue from flannel boards to board books to a cartoon with a big chocolate bunny. (First Veggie Tales cartoon I ever saw! Thank you youth ministry of the 90s!) This story grabs our attention and fascinates us by recounting the bravery and faith shown by these three friends.

Unfortunately, this historical account often gets pulled out as one spectacular event disconnected from the rest of the story of Scripture. Sadly, even though we are amazed by these men, we do not stop and think past this one event. This week, our focus is the bigger picture of Scripture. Our aim is to examine how books, passages, and singular stories of Scripture bolster and reiterate the overarching story throughout the entire Bible.

- 1. What might be the danger of seeing a story from Scripture as a singular event instead of part of the larger narrative?**

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?*

*Jerry's puns are rubbing off on me.

Here we will consider a handful of the many different perspectives on how to break down the big picture of the Bible.

First, let us define what we mean by "the big picture." The most basic definition refers to the story of the whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, which tells of God's plan through Jesus Christ to rescue the lost, restore the sinner, and reign on the throne forever. This is the ultimate story. The Bible points us to Jesus as our salvation and hope for this life and the one to come. With this definition in mind, we can shift our focus from singular stories to how to view smaller portions of Scripture in light of the bigger idea.

One way to see the Biblical picture is to break the Bible into a timeline of sorts. It's important to realize when events occur within Scripture. Our three friends' time in Babylon is before the sacrifice and resurrection of Christ. They are looking forward to the future and hope of Christ their Savior and trusting God as their Heavenly Father in the present.

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE THROUGH TIMELINES

Here are three ways to break down Scripture into timelines:

Four-Part Timeline:

1. Creation (God creates the world)
2. Fall (Man Intentionally Disobeys God's Commands)
3. Redemption (Christ brings Salvation)
4. Reign and Restoration (Christ reigns forever, and we are restored to live with him forever)

Six-Part Timeline:

1. Creation
2. Fall/Intentional Sin
3. History of Israel
4. Coming of Jesus
5. Establishing the Church and Making Disciples
6. Re-creation of Heaven and Earth/God's Dwelling with His People

The Institute for Bible Reading has a great article laying out what they have titled, *The Six Act Drama of the Bible*. Listed under each act are a few paragraphs of explanation.

<https://instituteforbible.com/drama-of-the-bible/>

The following are their six acts:

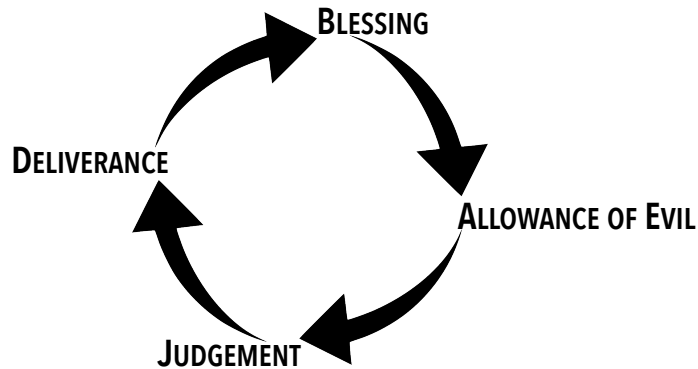
1. World's Genesis
2. Humanity's Rebellion
3. Israel's Quest
4. King's Advent
5. Community's Calling
6. God's Homecoming

The timeline approach focuses on the big events of the Bible and places them in sections to show the movement of time through Scripture.

2. Using one of the timelines above, when does the story in Daniel 3 take place?

REPETITIVE MOVEMENTS IN SCRIPTURE

Another approach to the big Biblical picture is to focus more on the repetitive movements taking place in Scripture. Professor Ronjour Locke teaches a circle approach to the Biblical Story in his class. The categories are:



He argues that these are big picture ideas found over and over throughout Scripture. These four categories enable you to take a passage and see how it reflects these repetitive movements. This method can be used for Old Testament and New Testament passages alike.

3. **Use Professor Locke's categories of Blessing, Allowance of Evil, Judgement, and Deliverance to find one or more of these pieces within Daniel 3. Record your findings along with verses to support them.**

Think back to the definition of "the big picture." The definition included

1. Rescue
2. Restore
3. Reign

These phrases focus on how God's people need to be rescued from our sin as well as the broken world around us. We also desperately need to be restored to God as His children—a restoration only Christ can provide. Lastly, we understand Christ's role as King and our hope of eternity with His reign.

4. **Identify the Rescue, Restore, and Reign themes in Daniel 3. Record your findings along with supporting verses.**

Hopefully, by putting Daniel 3 into view of these big picture ideas, you have begun to see how its story isn't singular but rather part of God's larger plans.

BIG PICTURE IN SINGULAR NARRATIVES

The next step is seeing how this individual story fits inside the larger picture of the book of Daniel.

Take a moment and go through Chapter 3, marking every occurrence of "image of gold," "the golden image," "image," and "set up".

5. **How many times did you mark a reference to the image?** _____
6. **How many times did you mark a reference to set up?** _____
7. **What emphasis comes across with the repetition of these phrases?**

Daniel 2:21 states "He (God) changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings...."

8. **According to the passage above, who has the power to set up kings? Who is Nebuchadnezzar trying to establish himself as? What might be his motivation?**

As the story continues to unfold, Nebuchadnezzar finds himself in opposition with three men to whom he had given positions of power. (Daniel 2:49) They are unwavering in their allegiance and obedience, but their allegiance is not to Nebuchadnezzar. They stand out against all those around them, and this infuriates the king. In these first chapters of Daniel, there is a strong contrast between "all the peoples" and those that are faithful to the one and only God.

- 9. **Contrast these groups by their actions in Chapter 3. For reference, be sure to look at verses 1, 3, 7, 8, and 13-15.**

Character in the Story	Actions
King Nebuchadnezzar	
The King's Officials	
All the Peoples	
Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego	

- 10. **Now think through how this idea has been explored through Chapters 1 and 2. What part of the bigger picture of the book of Daniel is this emphasizing?**

Next week, we will begin to explore themes found throughout the book of Daniel. Having this vision of what is unfolding in all of Scripture and beginning to think through what is unfolding in Daniel will enable you to continue to dive deeper into the beauty of this book.

QUESTIONS

1. What attributes of God did you notice in the book of Daniel this week?

2. What deeper insights did you gain about God's plans and purposes in this week's study?

3. In Daniel 3:16-18, these men make the ultimate statement of faith. They know God has the power to save them, but they also know that His plans might be different. These two truths don't change their commitment to obedience. What about their faith do you admire? Where in your life do you need to put this level of faith into action?

4. Imagine you are hearing this story for the first time. What amazes you?

5. In verses 28-29, Nebuchadnezzar once again makes a statement about God. Compare this statement to Daniel 2:47 and Daniel 3:15. How would you describe Nebuchadnezzar's view of God?

6. Dr. Akin states in the *Christ-Centered Exposition Exalting Jesus in Daniel*, "Nebuchadnezzar once again experienced (as in Chapter 2) conviction when he met the Most High God. However, conviction is not Conversion!"

How do Christians living in a lost world help move people from mere conviction to conversion?
What is the danger of leaving people to their convictions?

7. If you have any questions from Chapter 3 and haven't written them down, please record them here.

8. Consider adding information from Chapter 3 to your outline.

I would like to leave you this week with another great thought from Dr. Akin from the book mentioned above. "The God who did not deliver them from the fire was the God who met them in the fire and delivered them out of the fire!" Let that encourage you this week and throughout the remainder of the study. God is with us and will see us through whatever we are facing.

WEEK 6 OF BIBLE STUDY

Uncovering Biblical Themes Within a Book

DANIEL 4

Goals:

- To explore a variety of themes found throughout Scripture
- To identify themes within a book
- To identify themes found in Chapter 4

Materials Needed to Complete These Goals:

- Printed copy of Daniel (Provided with Study)
- Variety of Colored Pencils
- Pens and/or Pencils
- Highlighters
- Notecard of Symbols

Promise for the Week: *The Lord Forgives Our Sins.*

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. ~Ephesians 1:7

Prayer for the Week:

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Restore thou those who are penitent according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life. To the glory of thy holy name, Amen. (Common Book of Prayers)

Activities for Daniel 4:

1. Using the symbols on your notecard, mark up Chapter 4 and add any additional words or phrases.
2. Mark Eye Openers.

THEMES, THEMES EVERYWHERE!

I absolutely love searching for themes in Scripture. It's like the best treasure hunt ever!!! And even better than gold, you find a deeper love for Christ!

The first time I learned about themes, I was sitting in an Old Testament (OT) class at Southeastern. (I don't have a degree from SEBTS, but I have had the privilege of sitting in a few classes.) While teaching out of Exodus, the instructor began speaking about repeated phrases, words, and ideas found within Scripture. I remember looking around at all the other students and noticing that they weren't taking the crazy amount of notes I was. They seemed to already know all of this, but I was astounded. I was particularly amazed when he began explaining how OT books relate to NT books. He shared a time when he was preaching on a passage from Colossians, and it reminded him of a passage from Deuteronomy. It had never occurred to me to look for how these threads of themes run throughout Scripture. Until that point, I thought there was one large story about Christ, but I didn't understand how it all fit together in a consistent message. The treasure hunt for Biblical themes began because of that professor, and I will always be grateful to him.

If this is new to you, I hope it will truly bless you as you begin to seek these things in your study. If this isn't new, I hope you grow in your understanding of themes. Like all other tools, it takes practice. So don't give up; keep up the good work!

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THEMES?

A quick google search of "biblical themes" will produce different results. It might seem overwhelming and hard to know where to start. Some theories suggest the OT has different themes than the NT—as if once Jesus comes upon the scene, the themes of Scripture change. We know this is not the case. God is unchanging, and Jesus is the exact imprint of Him. "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature" (Hebrews 1:3).

LitCharts gives this definition of a literary theme: "A theme is a universal idea, lesson, or message explored throughout a work of literature." Since Scripture consists of sixty-six separate books, you can search for themes throughout all of Scripture as well as themes that are dominant in individual books. Themes aren't always going to be expressed overtly, but they are most certainly there.

For the purpose of our study, we will explore themes within Daniel as well as how those themes relate to the entirety of Scripture.

Let's examine a few big picture themes in the book of Daniel that are also seen throughout Scripture. We can begin looking for themes with the promise for the week: "The Lord forgives sin."

- 1. Where in Chapter 4 of Daniel do you see this theme? How is this theme explored in Chapter 4?**

- 2. Do you see this theme in other places within Daniel? If so, where?**

- 3. Research and list at least four other places within Scripture that this idea is seen. Try to find two in the OT and two in the NT.**

Why should we list other places in Scripture? In order to get a full understanding of a theme, it is best to explore it throughout various passages. Doing so guards against building a Biblical theology from one verse plucked out of context. As a student of the Scriptures, it is never wise to make a theological conclusion from one verse.

Daniel 4 begins with a kingly decree. Nebuchadnezzar gives a personal testimonial of how God has changed his life. His testimony reveals several themes of God's character.

- 4. List at least three of God's characteristics given in Nebuchadnezzar's testimony (make sure to include verse references).**

- 5. Now find other passages from outside the book of Daniel that also speak of these three characteristics of God.**

Your list might have mentioned how God is great, how His kingdom is forever, how He has dominion over men, or how He is just in His works. Whatever your list consists of, our understanding of a theme grows as we explore it throughout Scripture.

While most themes carry throughout Scripture, some themes are primarily emphasized within a particular book or even one chapter. We have already seen this by what we have marked in the first four chapters of Daniel. Last week, the instructions included marking up words and phrases that related to the image Nebuchadnezzar set up. In this chapter, those words and phrases aren't prominent, so there is no need to look for them; however, other words or phrases come to the forefront and need to be examined.

6. Mark every time "Most High" is mentioned. What attributes of God does this name emphasize?

7. Make a list of how Nebuchadnezzar viewed himself. (Pay close attention to verses 28-31).

8. What theme or themes might you be able to draw from these two observations? Pay particular attention to the contrast between God and man. Give other passages outside of Daniel to support how this is a Biblical theme.

The focus of this Bible Study is to help you implement these study tools into your own personal study time. I've intentionally kept the deep dive into themes fairly vague in order to drive you to think through and find your own themes. Now that you have done the first part of the work, let's look at some specific categories of themes.

DIFFERENT WAYS TO FIND THEMES

The previous exercises should have given you a quick overview of how to find different themes within a book as well as throughout Scripture. When dealing with themes, we can use various categories.

One prominent way to categorize themes is to seek contrasts. We practiced this in question 8 by listing the differences between Nebuchadnezzar and God.

Categories of contrast could include:

- Blessing/Curse
- Wise/Foolish
- Love/Hate
- Pride/Humility
- Feast/Famine
- Redeemed/Lost
- Good/Evil
- Land to Belong/Exile

9. In your readings of Daniel, do any of these categories seem to be present? If so, which ones and where?

Another way to categorize themes is to use biblical terms and seek them throughout Scriptures.

- Redemption
- Steadfast Love
- The Fall
- Community
- Lamenting
- Forgiveness
- Justification
- The Church
- Thankfulness
- Restoration

10. In your readings of Daniel, do any of these categories seem to be present? If so, which ones and where?

Finding themes by studying the attributes of God is another option. In doing so, we're thinking through the attributes of God and seeing them unfold throughout His Holy Word.

- Eternal
- Merciful
- Unity
- Wisdom
- Perfection
- Just
- Sovereign
- Love
- Holiness
- Goodness

11. In your readings of Daniel, what attributes of God (if any) are prominent themes of Daniel? List them here along with passage references so you can refer back to them as the study continues.

If you desire to think more about God's attributes, The Gospel Coalition has an online course that explores this topic more deeply.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/the-attributes-of-god/#course-introduction>

Lastly, themes aren't always summed up in a nice little word or phrase. Often, you need an entire sentence to explain what is taking place in a certain book.

For example, in the book of 1 John, it could be said that a theme is: "John writes to the followers within the church to assure them of their salvation through Christ's work on the cross." As you read through the book of 1 John, this theme is repeated over and over again. But this isn't the only theme within 1 John. It could also be said: "A theme of 1 John is how deeply we are loved by God and how that love changes us so we can love others." These are just a few examples of how sentences can help us flesh out the theme of a book.

12. Write a few sentences listing some of the themes within the book of Daniel. Although we have only studied deeply through Chapter 4, we have read all of Daniel, so you may want to add themes you see throughout the entire book.

QUESTIONS

1. What attributes of God did you notice in the book of Daniel this week?

2. What deeper insights did you gain about God's plans and purposes this week in the book of Daniel?

3. Think back to last week's lesson on understanding the big Biblical picture and apply that lesson to Chapter 4. Pick one of the categories explored last week and list how Chapter 4 fits into the larger picture of the Bible.

4. Last week, you began to think through the bigger picture of Daniel. How does Daniel 4 add to the bigger picture of the book?

5. How are themes and the big picture of a book different? How are they similar?

6. Why is it beneficial to use both of these tools in your study of Scripture?

7. If you have any questions from Chapter 4 and haven't written them down, please record them here.

8. Consider adding any information from Chapter 4 to your outline.

WEEK 7 OF BIBLE STUDY

Engaging in Biblical Historical Narrative

DANIEL 5

GOALS:

- To understand that acknowledging the Bible as literature doesn't lessen its worth or standing
- To become aware of the dangers of misreading a historical narrative
- To learn how to break down a narrative passage to comprehend the flow of the story.
- To apply this knowledge to Chapter 5 and understand the text with more clarity

MATERIALS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THESE GOALS:

- Printed copy of Daniel (Provided with study)
- Variety of Colored Pencils
- Pens and/or Pencils
- Highlighters
- Notecard of Symbols

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK: *God's Word Will Accomplish its Purpose.*

*For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ~Isaiah 55:10-11*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

I invite you to shape my soul with your words and inspire my life through your works.
Teach me to walk in the way of blessing. Amen (from Lectio 365)

ACTIVITIES FOR CHAPTER 5:

1. Using the symbols provided or by creating your own symbols, mark up Chapter 5.
2. Mark Eye Openers.

INTERACTING WITH BIBLICAL HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Historical narrative is found throughout all of Scripture. In its most basic form, a historical narrative is the recounting of factual events told in story format. The benefit of writing history as stories is that it captures the audience's attention.

There is a certain flow that captivates and draws in the reader. In Daniel, we are fascinated by the stories of four young men in a strange place with strange food before a powerful king. These stories of dream interpretation, almost being burned alive, and a king who begins acting as an animal intrigue us. We want to know more.

- 1. What is your favorite Bible story of all time? (You might have more than one, but pick just one.)
What about the story draws you in?**

More than likely, your favorite story is your favorite because you are drawn in by how the people interact with the Lord. The characters bring connection to the story. The human experience in the narrative pulls at our emotions and reminds us of our own personal experiences.

When reading through Proverbs, the epistles, or prophetic calls to repentance, the message is clear. But when reading through a narrative, the lesson is often more implicit than explicit. The author is trying to persuade their audience to think a particular way by telling them a story.

Think about this in relation to fairy tales. Most fairy tales begin "Once upon a time..." When we hear that phrase, we are clued in to what type of story we are about to be told. Because we know fairy tales, we know there is most likely a hidden lesson in the story. As the story unfolds, we begin looking for that lesson.

THREE DANGERS OF NARRATIVE

The question then is this: what are you looking for in a Biblical narrative? Is the automatic response to look for a "lesson" in a Biblical narrative? There are several dangers to this reaction.

To begin with, the Bible is first and foremost about God, and the author's intent is to bring the reader to submission to God in Christ. If you are coming to the Bible looking for yourself, you will walk away discouraged. This is dangerous and detrimental to your spiritual growth.

Michael Reeves says in *Delighting in the Trinity*,

"But when you see that Christ is the subject of all the Scriptures, that he is the Word, the Lord, the Son who reveals his Father, the promised Hope, the true Temple, the true Sacrifice, the great High Priest, the ultimate King, then you can read, not so much asking, "What does this mean for me, right now?" but "What do I learn here of Christ?"... And as through the pages you get caught up in the wonder of his story, you find your heart strangely pounding for him in a way you never would have if you treated the Bible as a book about you."

The second danger is thinking that every person present in a story is an example to follow. We must consider the context. Biblical books are to be read as a whole. For this reason, each minor section needs to be viewed in light of the context. When we let go of the “me” focus and replace it with a “Christ-centered” reading of Scripture, we can often eliminate this danger.

A third danger is losing the forest for the trees. Although we are going to break down how to walk through a narrative, there is a very real danger of thinking the work is done because we intellectually interacted with the text. When this occurs, you walk away with respect for the text but not awe for the Lord.

- 2. Which of these dangers is most tempting to you and your spiritual walk? Why?**

HOW TO ENGAGE OUR MINDS WITH NARRATIVE

In *Scripture as Communication*, Author Jeannie K. Brown draws a distinction between the story level and the discourse level found in Biblical narrative. In the story level, she says we are accustomed to noticing these categories: characters, setting, dialogue, and plot. The next layer, the discourse level, is where the implied meaning is found.

Let’s tackle the story level first. When reading a narrative, our minds are drawn to engage in the story. For this reason, it is often easier to read through them quickly. Our goal in this study is to slow down so that we may engage our minds with the passage. At the end of this week, you will find a quick example of how I used these elements to break down Daniel 1.

Characters

In Biblical narrative, a variety of characters often come in and out of the story. You will find main characters, secondary characters, protagonists, and antagonists.

- 3. List the characters found in Daniel 5. To the best of your ability, list what type of character they are. (No fear; this isn’t an English quiz!)**

Setting

The next piece is the setting. Is there a change in setting? Often a change in setting shows a movement or change in the story itself. There is a reason that the story can't take place entirely in one setting.

- 4. What settings are found in Daniel 5? How do the different settings move the story along?**

Dialogue

We can learn a lot by what the characters are saying. Who is saying what? To whom are they saying it? What is the general feel or motive of their dialogue? There is a difference between David's dialogue to have Uriah sent to his death in 2 Samuel 11: 15 and David's confession to Nathan of his sin in 2 Samuel 12: 13. Dialogue literally "speaks" to show us how the character is feeling and what they are thinking.

- 5. What dialogue in Daniel 5 do you find important? What do you learn about the characters from their dialogue? (Especially think through how their dialogue reveals their motives and their desires.)**

Plot: Goal, Conflict, Resolution

Plot seeks to combine all these elements to streamline the story. There are three pieces of plot we want to uncover. The first is the *goal*. Often the opening scene (before a setting change) sets up where the story is going and what the desired outcome is. The next part of the plot we want to look for is *conflict*—the heart of the story. Conflict looks at the obstacles or reasons why attaining that goal will be difficult. Can the characters overcome the conflict or not? What are the obstacles in the way of achieving the goal?

The last part is *resolution*. This is when the conflict is resolved, and the character(s) have either achieved the goal or failed to meet it. We can ask questions such as: Were they able to overcome the conflict and reach the goal? What happened that they were able or unable to overcome? Was the outcome what they wanted? Was there an unexpected outcome?

6. Find the three pieces of plot in Daniel 5.

a) Goal –

b) Conflict –

c) Resolution –

These story pieces answer the question of “what” is happening. To go further, we move to the discourse level.

Theme within a Narrative

To find the first piece of discourse, we must dig for the themes within the narrative. Here you will use what you learned about themes last week and apply them to Daniel 5.

7. What themes do you see in Daniel 5? You can look back at Week 6 for a refresher.

Timeline

The timeline plays a part in the bigger picture of a narrative as well. In ancient culture, they emphasized the topic or thematic elements more than the chronological order. Chapters 1-6 of Daniel seem to follow a chronological order. However, once you arrive at Chapter 7, time reverses. The structure of the book isn't concerned about chronological order. Instead, it has a different purpose.

8. Why might the book of Daniel be written in a non-chronological order?

9. If we group Chapters 1-6 and 7-12 into two separate sections, what topic or thematic element do we find in each section?

Literary Devices

Authors also use literary devices to draw attention to particular pieces of the passage. One device prominent in the gospel of Mark is the sandwich method. Mark begins a story, inserts another smaller story, and then goes back to finish the original story.

Another device is bookends. An author may begin and end a narrative with very similar wording. This is a big clue to the message of the entire story. Think about the book of Judges. By Chapter 2, things have gone off the rails and the children of Israel are worshipping other gods. Judges 2:11-12, "And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. And they abandoned the LORD." Judges also ends with, "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in their own eyes." These bookends give a good picture of what is happening in the book; it's a sad picture but a picture nonetheless.

Another literary device is repeated words or phrases. This repetition draws our attention and tells us that those words are important.

Other writers intentionally don't wrap up the story with a nice, neat ending. That leads the reader to wrestle with the tension of that ending. Maybe the story took an unexpected twist right at the end.

All of these devices play into how we interpret the story before us.

- 10. Are there any literary devices in Daniel 5 that are used to draw your attention to a particular scene or event within the story?**

HOW TO ENGAGE OUR HEARTS WITH NARRATIVE

Now that we have gathered all the "intellectual" pieces, it's time to move past the factual investigation and on to the heart of the text. Some elements may already stand out to you. Or maybe you feel like you just went through an intense English lesson and don't know what any of it means. Either way is fine. We are going to piece it together.

Personally, I have a hard time slowing down and observing. I want to get to the end product, but there is value in pausing and letting it roll around in your mind for a moment. Do this now with Daniel 5. Pause for a moment and prayerfully think on Daniel 5.

- 11. What is standing out in your mind? Any questions rolling around? There are no right or wrong answers here. Work to see your overall impression of Daniel 5.**

Now what does all this mean? Our study of Scripture must push us to ask God-focused questions. Our primary aim in this study isn't about building our character but about the redemptive work of Christ. By understanding Him more deeply, we will be changed because our desires and affections will change.

The best first step is asking the questions we ask at the end of every lesson.

12. What attributes of God did you notice in the book of Daniel this week?

13. What deeper insights did you gain about God's plans and purposes this week in the book of Daniel?

Only after we put these pieces together can we examine how this story impacts us. In historical narrative, doctrine is most often implicit rather than explicit; the characters are a bad example, and our theological questions aren't answered. When we put together the puzzle, the narrative becomes clearer, and we come to see how God—not the person—is the center of the story. Daniel isn't the central character, God is. He is the one that enables Daniel to interpret the dream. His goodness and faithfulness are the focus.

The prayer and plea for us is this: "Lord use your word to impact and change my life. Teach me who you are through the narrative before me."

14. How is God the center of this story?

15. What about the story of Daniel 5 moves you to a deeper walk with Christ?

In Week 8, we will take a deeper look at personal application, but we don't want to stop short and walk away with only head knowledge. A simple step for application is to look to 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

16. Has Daniel 5 taught you?

17. Has Daniel 5 reproved (convicted) you?

18. Has Daniel 5 corrected your heart this week?

19. Has there been a way that Daniel 5 has trained you in righteousness (encouraged you to live an obedient life)?

While putting together this week of study, several books were very handy. They are included in the resource list at the end of the study. In addition, this online resource is a great summary of a wonderful book that lives on our bookshelves.

<https://redeemernw.org/blog/learners/a-way-to-read-the-bible/the-old-testament-narratives-their-proper-use-part-6>

QUESTIONS

1. Think back to Week 5's lesson on understanding the big Biblical picture and apply that to Chapter 5. Pick one of the categories explored and list how Chapter 5 fits into the larger picture of the Bible.

2. If you have any questions from Chapter 5 and haven't written them down, please record them here.

3. Consider adding any information from Chapter 5 to your outline.

DANIEL 1 BROKEN DOWN ACCORDING TO HISTORICAL NARRATIVE PIECES

Characters:

God -	Daniel (Belteshazzar) - Main Character
Nebuchadnezzar - King of Babylon - Main Character throughout Daniel 1-4	Hananiah (Shadrach) - Side Character
Ashpenaz - Chief Eunuch - Side Character	Mishael (Meshach) - Side Character
Youths brought to King - Background Characters	Azariah (Abednego) - Side Character

Setting:

- King's Palace (main setting)

Dialogue:

- Ashpenaz (chief Eunuch) expresses fear of Daniel and friends looking worse and the king being mad.
- Daniel convinces him to give them ten days of different food, and after that Ashpenaz could do as he wanted with them.

Plot:

- Goal – The king desires to find youths from Jerusalem that would become part of the Babylonian culture (he wants to teach them all about the Chaldeans) and would be placed within his palace.
- Conflict – Daniel resolved that he would not be defiled by the king's food and wine. So he and his friends are not adhering to the culture being imposed upon them.
- Resolution – Daniel and friends were given learning and skill by God in all literature and wisdom and Daniel in dreams and visions. Because of that, the king found them better than everyone else.

Themes: (just a few I see)

- Exile – The youth are taken from Jerusalem to Babylon
- Sovereignty – God removes and places kings.
- Obedience – Despite the expectations of the culture around them the four youth chose to obey God.
- God's Faithfulness – God was faithful to bless them in wisdom and knowledge.

Timeline: This story follows a succinct timeline.

Literary Devices:

- Completed Story – This story has a clear beginning, middle, and end. This is a contained story.

WEEK 8 OF BIBLE STUDY

Personal Application

DANIEL 6

GOALS:

- To explore varying aspects of personal application
- To learn how to use information from the previous tools for personal application
- To keep personal application in correct perspective

MATERIALS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THESE GOALS:

- Printed copy of Daniel (Provided with study)
- Variety of Colored Pencils
- Pens and/or Pencils
- Highlighters
- Notecard of Symbols

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK: *God Will Meet Us and Guide Us.*

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. ~Proverbs 3:5-6*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

*O gracious God and most merciful Father, you have given us the rich and precious jewel of your holy Word. Assist us with your Spirit, that it may be written in our hearts to our everlasting comfort, to reform us, to renew us according to your own image, to build us up into the perfect building of Christ, and to increase us in all heavenly virtues. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the same Jesus Christ's sake. Amen. (From *The Worship Sourcebook*)*

ACTIVITIES FOR DANIEL 6:

1. Using the symbols on your notecard, mark up chapter 6.
2. Mark Eye Openers
3. If it has been a while since you have read through the entire book of Daniel, please do so this week.

APPLICATION INCORRECTLY APPLIED

How good are we at personal application? It seems that some teachers try to find a personal application for everything in the Bible. Others think if there isn't a personal application then that passage is less important than other Scriptures. We can all get caught in the loop of trying to find personal application, and, if we are not careful, it can land us in some crazy places. Take these passages for example:

"For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain who was of the evil one and murdered his brother." ~1 John 3:11-12

Okay, so love one another and don't murder my brother. Check.

"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor." ~Romans 12:10

I'm all over this like the next contestant on Survivor!! You just wait to see how much I show brotherly affection, and I'll outdo everyone by showing others honor.

"He went up from there to Bethel, and while he was going on the way some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!" And he turned around, and when he saw them, he cursed them in the name of the LORD. And two she-bears came out of the wood and tore forty-two of the boys." ~2 Kings 2:23-24

Hmm, let me see if I've got this. I can curse those who mock me?? It seems strange, but the Bible said it, so I'll go with it. Next time someone mocks me, I'll pray a bear attacks them. Whew! I am so good at this personal application stuff!

That led to some interesting conclusions! Clearly when pertaining to what we read in Scripture, application doesn't mean copying everything biblical characters do or say. So what does it mean—especially when it comes to ambiguous narratives?

Maybe it would be a good idea to first define application.

- 1. Google the definition of application. Pick the best definition for this study and write it here.**

Considering the above definition, how would you define Biblical application?

If you defined application as "the action of putting something into operation," what would that mean when it comes to Scripture? Maybe the definition you liked was closer to the Merriam Webster definition of "an act of putting something to use." Maybe your definition was more about the practical lesson or conclusion derived from a speech or writing.

2. Thinking about the definitions above, how can you shift those to a Biblical definition? (I'm including an example in the chart below.)

General Definition	Biblical Perspective
Action of putting into operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading the Scriptures • Being convicted to take action against sin or for good • Making a plan and putting it into action (Space provided to write your own perspective)
Putting something to use	
Practical lesson derived	
Other definitions you found	

3. Now, write your own definition of personal application.

But how do we know when to find application in narratives? It can be easy to find application in the epistles, the commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, or even in many of the Psalms and Proverbs, but narratives? Is there more to them than just a moral lesson?

4. What do the following verses teach about application from the Bible?

a) Romans 15:4

b) Deuteronomy 29:29

c) 1 Corinthians 10:9-11

d) Luke 24:27,44-45

5. Using the information gathered from Scripture along with your definition, how does personal application interact with Biblical narrative?

CAN'T APPLY WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW

Before we can jump deeper into what application is and isn't, we must take some time to walk through Daniel 6.

***If you have not yet read through Daniel 6 and marked up the passage, you will want to do that before continuing.**

When approaching a passage such as Daniel in the lion's den, we are so familiar with the story that we might think we know it well enough for a quick skim. We also might think we know it enough to go ahead and predetermine what personal application we are going to walk away with. Let's work hard at leaving those presumptions at the door.

6. Referring back to last week's lesson on engaging with Biblical historical narrative, identify the following pieces and important information pertaining to each.

a) Characters:

b) Setting:

c) Dialogue:

d) Plot:

- **Goal:**

- **Conflict:**

- **Resolution:**

e) Any literary devices used to draw attention or emphasis?

7. Thinking back to Week 6, identify any major themes found within Daniel 6 as well as any themes that add to the overall theme of the book of Daniel. Do not try to be exhaustive in your listing here.

a) Look for contrast. (Example: Blessing/Cursing, Wise/Foolish, etc.)

b) Themes identified by Biblical terminology (Redemption, Forgiveness, Justification, etc.):

c) Themes connected to the attributes of God:

8. Pulling from Week 5, how does Daniel 6 fit into the larger picture of all of Scripture?

With the information you have gathered by looking at the story elements, themes, and the big picture of Scripture, we can now move toward application.

QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION

As we saw earlier, certain passages don't make it easy to draw a line from what happened to our application. We also can't assume that every example is a good one to follow—even if it was done by a great prophet or saint. No one would say we should follow David's example with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11). Finding application in narrative takes more thought. To simplify the process, here are a few questions that you can use as a starting point.

QUESTION #1: HOW DO MY OBSERVATIONS IMPACT HOW I VIEW GOD?

The first question at the end of every lesson is "What attributes of God did you notice in Daniel this week?" The first step toward personal application involves a slight shift in this question to gain the right perspective. The question moves from "What did I observe?" to "How do my observations impact how I view God?" With this simple shift, we are moving away from just observing to discovering how these observations impact our hearts and minds.

1. **Your turn: How do my observations from Daniel 6 impact how I view God?**

QUESTION #2: IS THERE AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW OR NOT FOLLOW? OR BOTH?

Narratives always include characters. 1 Corinthians 10:11 says, "Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction." If we don't put this into context, then we might take this to mean that all the examples throughout the Old Testament are positive. But 1 Corinthians 10:9 and 10 clarifies, "We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer." Clearly the Scriptures record examples that are to be followed and ones that are not.

Real people are recorded in Scripture; therefore narratives, at times, tell about the "good guy" doing the wrong thing. In 2 Samuel 11-12, David is acting sinfully, and God confronts him through Nathan. In order to know whether or not to follow these examples, we must put them up against all of Scripture. Do we follow David in 2 Samuel 11? No. Do we follow David's example of confession and repentance in 2 Samuel 12? Yes.

2. **Is there an example(s) to follow in Daniel 6? Is there an example(s) not to follow? Or both? What are those examples and what can you learn from them?**

QUESTION #3: ARE THERE ANY DOCTRINAL ISSUES TO RETHINK?

It's so easy to think we have everything figured out or to think we know nothing. Honestly, we usually fall somewhere in between. This is particularly true when it comes to Biblical doctrine.

Biblical doctrine is essentially teachings that we hold to. Think of it as specific teachings that mold and shape what we believe the Holy Word says about our Christian faith. Some examples would include what we believe about Jesus, the Trinity, the resurrection, etc.

Ligonier Ministries has an article by Scott Swain that takes this definition to another level by saying, "Doctrine is the teaching of our heavenly Father, revealed in Jesus Christ, and transmitted to us by the Holy Spirit in Holy Scripture, and it is to be received, confessed, and followed in the church, to the glory of God's name."

Many people know Scripture, but their lives aren't reflective of a life full of Christ. Knowledge of the Scriptures alone doesn't equal a life of submission to Christ. James warns us of just that in James 2:19, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe – and shudder!" Within narratives, we come face to face with God and man in action. This often rubs up against what we assume we know. We need to be humble enough to admit that there are areas we need more understanding and ask the Lord for His guidance in those places.

- 3. Are there any doctrinal issues that have come from your study of Daniel 6 that you need to rethink? If yes, what are they?**

QUESTION #4: ARE THERE ANY SINS I NEED TO FORSAKE?

In question 2, we covered the examples of characters' actions in Scripture. These characters' examples often expose what is going on in our own lives and lead us to confession. Confession is an important part of our walk with Christ, but if we stop there, we haven't put our faith into action. If the narrative brought forth a sin to forsake, then you must place your trust in Christ to strengthen you as you take action.

- 4. Are there any sins that come to light while reading Daniel 6 that you need to forsake? If yes, then what are they, and how will you begin to forsake them?**

QUESTION #5: ARE THERE ANY PROMISES TO CLAIM?

We begin each lesson with a "Promise for the Week" to draw our hearts and minds to the reality that God keeps His promises.

I remember Pastor Larry talking about the promises of God and asking what promises we were thinking on. My honest response was, "I don't even know what those are!" I think I was looking for the Bible to say, "This is a promise of God. Take note!" (I like things simple.)

However, when we engage our minds and start looking, the promises of God are sprinkled all throughout Scripture! One way to discover these promises of God in narrative is to think of the attributes of God. Then we can see how those attributes are on display toward the people in the passage.

Another way to find God's promises in a passage is to see how Scripture comes to life. In Daniel 1:8, Daniel and his friends resolved they would not defile themselves. They decided to honor God through their actions. Psalms 1:1-2 says, "Blessed is the man, who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night." Daniel 1:9 affirms that the Lord blessed these men because of their dedication.

5. **Are there any promises to claim from Daniel 6? If so, what are they, and how do they encourage you today?**

QUESTION #6: HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE POINT TO CHRIST?

We will dig into how Scripture points to Jesus in week 13, but for this week, let us remember as we read through the OT that we are reading about the hope of the Savior to come. When we read through the NT, we are reading about the Savior who has already come.

Finding Christ in OT narratives might take a little more thought, but here are three helpful ways to look for Him:

- 1) Is He the hope to come?
- 2) Is there a person acting in a Christ-like fashion?
- 3) Does it lead your heart to appreciate your restoration to God?

6. **How does our passage this week point to Christ?**

WARNINGS TO HEED

Before we call it quits for this week, let's look at just a few warnings about personal application. First, don't oversimplify. We can easily look at a passage such as Daniel 6 or Daniel 3 and think, "Wow, I need more faith." Okay, great, but how are you going to get more faith? What are you going to do to know God better so you can grow in faith?

I know I have mentioned this before, but don't use the Bible as a self-help book. Don't come get your nugget of inspiration and move on in your own strength. Quick nuggets of truth won't last long when there isn't a solid foundation.

Another warning is don't stop before finding application. Once I heard a food analogy that made a lot of sense. If you spend all day baking and icing this beautiful cake (or for you savory food lovers, a grilled T-Bone steak!) but then you just walk away and don't eat it, it doesn't make any sense! Why would you do all the work but not enjoy the rewards?

That is what happens if we stop at head knowledge. We walk away before the Scriptures have a chance to impact our hearts for God. We study and read and wonder why we don't love more, why we don't seek His face more, and why we feel so distant from the body of believers around us. The answer is that we stopped short of asking the Lord to use His word to transform our lives.

Lastly, do not forsake the time to pray and confess. We can all gain head knowledge, but without God's intervention, we are just big bobble heads. We need God to teach us, guide us, and transform us. For this, we should be continually bowing before the Lord and acknowledging how magnificent He is and how great our need for Him is. This is why there is a prayer portion at the beginning of each week—to help call our minds and hearts before the Lord.

7. Which warning is a temptation for you? How do you plan to combat it?

QUESTIONS

1. What did you notice about the attributes of God in the book of Daniel this week? (If there are any more you would like to add.)

2. What deeper insights did you gain about God's plans and purposes this week in the book of Daniel?

3. If you have any questions from Chapter 6 and haven't written them down, please record them here.

4. Consider adding information from chapter 6 to your outline.

You know I like to give you extra resources. Here is an article by David Powlison with some great general information! I would strongly encourage reading it.

<https://www.crossway.org/articles/4-ways-to-read-the-bible-for-personal-application/>

WEEK 9 OF BIBLE STUDY

Consulting Commentaries and Other References

DANIEL 7 AND 8

GOALS:

- To gain knowledge of the various types of resources
- To implement scholarly information into Bible study
- To choose resources wisely

MATERIALS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THESE GOALS:

- Printed copy of Daniel (provided with study)
- Variety of Colored Pencils and Highlighters
- Notecard of Symbols
- Internet Access for research
- Library Access (optional)

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK: *We are Secure in Christ.*

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

*I give them eternal life, and they will never perish,
and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*

*My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all,
and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ~ John 10:27-29*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

*O GOD, merciful and compassionate, who art ever ready to hear the prayers of those who put their trust in thee;
Graciously hearken to us who call upon thee, and grant us thy help in this our need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen. (Common Book of Prayers)

NO FREE ANSWERS

As we begin looking at Daniel 7 and 8, we notice the book takes a turn. Literally, things turn back in time. The visions of Chapters 7 and 8 take place before the events of Chapter 5.

The focus also shifts from narrative to prophetic. If you are hoping I am going to give you all the answers to the next 6 chapters of Daniel, you will be disappointed. My goal is to guide you as you seek to understand these chapters and find some answers along the way.

This is your study. You will think, pray, read, and possibly walk away with unanswered questions. Know that you are in good company. Daniel 8:27 reads, "And I, Daniel,was appalled by the vision and did not understand it," Daniel himself didn't understand what he had seen, and he had an angel show up to explain it to him!!

START WITH WHAT WE KNOW

Studying Daniel 7-12 can be a bit daunting. Good for you for sticking with it! All of Scripture is worth studying—even the hard or confusing pieces. It can be so easy to throw up your hands and walk away, but, if you stick with it, you will reap the benefits of studying God's word, and that is something worth fighting for.

The best thing to do when faced with overwhelming passages is to start with what you know.

The following questions come from earlier lessons. Complete each question in regard to Chapters 7 and 8:

1. **Mark up your passage. This week add to your list a symbol to mark anything dealing with sight (look, saw, seen, etc.)**
2. **Mark or make a list of Daniel's feelings and physical reactions to what he is seeing (e.g. Daniel 7:15: "my spirit was anxious;" Daniel 7:28: "my color changed").**

3. **Mark or make a list of every name or description of God or Christ.**

4. **Mark any Eye Openers (It's okay to have question marks everywhere like me)**

5. **Referring back to Week 4, answer the dreams' and visions' questions:**

- a) **Who had the dream?**
- b) **Who interpreted the dream?**
- c) **What Biblical purpose did the dream serve? (Think really big picture like week 5)**
- d) **What was the impact of the dream on those in the text (and the impact for us, if applicable)?**

- 6. Write summaries of the two interpretations of the dreams (3 to 5 sentences for each interpretation).**

By starting with what you know, you won't feel as overwhelmed. You can see the bigger picture and break apart the passage into manageable pieces. If you are like me, you want more understanding and more answers. In order to dig deeper, you can look at outside resources.

DIGGING DEEPER

The teachings listed below are similar to commentaries. The main purpose of these resources is to bring light to the passage rather than bring out personal application. Will personal application emerge? Yes, because we are encountering God's word. But the focus here is on understanding the original purpose and message of the words of Scripture.

David Mathis on Daniel 7 (listen or read):

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/god-tells-the-time>

Finding resources for Daniel 8 is very difficult. Teaching by Graham Beynon of chapter 8:

<https://resources.thegospelcoalition.org/library/daniel-8>

If you like that one, he also has a teaching on Daniel 7:

<https://resources.thegospelcoalition.org/library/daniel-7>

- 7. In light of these teachings, do you believe the prophecies were soon to be fulfilled or far off in the future prophecies? Or both? Explain your answer.**

- 8. After listening to these teachings, what themes or big picture ideas emerged from Daniel 7 and 8?**

9. What topics or verses did these teachings help you understand better? What is your new understanding of those?

10. How is the ancient writing of Daniel linked to a present meaning for us?

QUESTIONS

1. What did you notice about the attributes of God in the book of Daniel this week? (If there are any more you would like to add.)

2. What deeper insights did you gain about God's plans and purposes this week in the book of Daniel?

3. Consider adding information from chapters 7 and 8 to your outline.

4. If you have any questions from chapter 7 and 8 and haven't written them down, record them here.

5. What do Daniel's feelings show us about him? About God? What do they say about how we can present our own feelings before the Lord?

6. Take a moment to write down the descriptions of God you found most striking this week. How do these descriptions stir your love for God and encourage you in troubling times?

7. Revisit the application questions from Week 8. Are any of them helpful when thinking through chapters 7 and 8?

a) How do my observations impact how I view God?

b) Is there an example to follow or not? Or both?

c) Are there any doctrinal issues to rethink?

d) Are there any sins I need to forsake?

e) Are there any promises I need to claim?

f) How does this passage point to Christ?

I purposefully designed the format of this lesson differently from the others because I didn't want to break up the flow of study for the information portion of this week. Now that the work has been done, please take a little time to review the information below. Hopefully, you will find some good tips and resources to use as you further study the book of Daniel.

HELPFUL TOOLS FOR INTERPRETING SCRIPTURE

Up to this point, I have really pushed for you to dig deep and examine the text on your own. I am still advocating for personal study and for outside resources to always come after you have done your own study. To skip straight to these resources can inadvertently make us lazy students. We don't wrestle and think deeply about the text, but instead we jump to someone giving us the answers. Please don't do that. Even if you realize you totally misinterpreted Scripture after you grab resources, that is okay. I think we often learn more from our mistakes than our victories.

STUDY BIBLES

An often good and quick resource for many of us is a Study Bible. It gives great information and provides helpful insight as we study. However, we need to be careful which Study Bible we grab. I like to stick with more generalized Study Bibles like *The ESV Study Bible* or *The NIV Study Bible*. These don't hold to a "one person" or "one topic" perspective.

COMMENTARIES

I think a lot of people's brains jump straight to commentaries for references especially when dealing with dense passages. Some of us are afraid we aren't smart enough to read commentaries. With so many commentaries out there, you can find something that fits you. While some are written for the scholar, others are written with the everyday church member in mind.

With so many commentaries out there, how do you know where to start? I can't review every commentary, but the two I used the most for this study are *Christ-Centered Exposition Exalting Jesus in Daniel* by Daniel Akin and *The NIV Application Commentary* by Tremper Longman III. Dr. Akin's commentaries reflect his pastoral heart and are written to be understood by all. *The NIV Application Commentaries* are written by various authors. I have used their commentaries on Hebrews and Galatians as well and find them to be a rich resource. I also find John Stott's commentaries to be wonderfully written. Though he was a theologian at heart, he didn't expect you to have a degree to read his writings.

The main thing to keep in mind when grabbing commentaries isn't whether the authors agree with one another's views, but that the authors are reliable resources. Always do research on the author. Obviously, I find Dr. Akin to be a reliable source. Does that mean I am going to agree with him about everything? No, but I can respect where he is coming from and know that his information has been researched, prayed over, and carefully thought through. For these reasons, I will gladly read his books. It is good to gather several commentaries, especially for texts like Daniel 7 and 8 where opinions vary.

SERMONS, TEACHINGS, AND PODCASTS

In our world today, we do not lack resources. There are all sorts of teachings out there. My rules for who I listen to follow closely to my rules for whom I read. I am not opposed to listening to or reading the works of people I don't agree with, but I must know that going in. If I am going to be studying for truth, then I want to listen to people who pull me toward the truth, not away from it. Research those you listen to. Find out what they believe. Do you disagree on doctrinal teachings? Theological issues? If so, then don't listen to them to gain truth about Christ.

CONCORDANCES AND WORD STUDIES

These two study tools often come from the same desire: to examine the words of Scripture. You have done this to an extent by marking words and phrases. Concordances are used to help gain an understanding of the original Greek or Hebrew words used within the Scripture. You may be familiar with *Strong's Concordance*, but it is solely for the King James Version of the Bible. If you mostly study from the ESV, then you need a concordance for the ESV. It is important to have a concordance that matches the version of the Bible from which you are studying.

Word Studies often are based on finding the definition and researching how that particular word is used throughout Scripture. Expanding our understanding of a particular word across Scripture is helpful when trying to figure out personal application.

There are two warnings to keep in mind when doing these types of study. First, if you aren't a linguist, acknowledge your limitations. Use the concordance and other resources to help you understand the original message. Second, don't think a word means way more than it does. Sometimes words do have more weight than we give them, but sometimes a word just means what it says. If you run down a rabbit trail only to find that it leads nowhere, accept it and move on.

ONLINE RESOURCES

As you can see, I scour the internet for resources. There is so much out there for free these days, so I often check the internet first. These are some of my favorite sites to search. This doesn't mean that I agree with everything that is ever posted, but I do find these to be mostly reliable:

- www.desiringgod.org: This is John Piper's ministry website, and it has a variety of resources.
- www.thegospelcoalition.org and resources.thegospelcoalition.org: We have already visited this site several times. It has a great variety of topical articles and in-depth study lessons to draw from as well as many teachings and sermons.
- www.biblegateway.com: This site is wonderful for comparing different Bible translations and looking up individual verses.
- www.ligonier.org: I can often find great articles on theological topics here.
- www.monergism.com: This is a newer resource to me, but it has a great accumulation of free resources including a commentary on Daniel by John Calvin. https://www.grace-ebooks.com/library/John%20Calvin/JC_Daniel_Vol_2.pdf
- www.blueletterbible.org: This is a wonderful resource if you want to study words and learn about the original Hebrew and Greek.
- <https://www.esv.org/>: In this great resource, you can limit your word search to one book of the Bible.
- <https://www.uniontheology.org/resources/index>: This resource from Union Theology has so much good stuff including teachings from Michael Reeves who is a wonderful speaker and writer.

RESOURCES FOR DANIEL

Here are several audio sermons to listen to. E. J. Young and Sinclair Ferguson have both written two very good commentaries on the book of Daniel.

<https://resources.thegospelcoalition.org/library?f%5Bchapter%5D%5B%5D=Daniel+7>

John Piper answers the question "Why is Jesus Called Son of Man?"

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/why-is-jesus-called-son-of-man>

This article points to how the love of God can keep us going even in the midst of heartache.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/appalled-but-productive>

WEEK 10 OF BIBLE STUDY

The Coherency of Scripture

DANIEL 9

GOALS:

- To learn how Daniel 9 is linked to other Scripture
- To examine how cross-references help us to better grasp Daniel 9
- To consider how Scripture complements Scripture

MATERIALS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THESE GOALS:

- Printed copy of Daniel (provided with study)
- Variety of Colored Pencils
- Pens and/or Pencils
- Highlighters
- Notecard of Symbols

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK: *God Will Not Forget His Promises.*

Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I watch over my word to accomplish it." ~ Jeremiah 1:12

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

O God, who in Jesus Christ called us out of darkness into marvelous light, enable us always to declare your wonderful deeds. We thank you for your steadfast love and praise you with our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Now and forever. Amen.

ACTIVITIES FOR DANIEL 9:

1. Using the symbols on your notecard, mark up chapter 9.
2. Mark every reference to "we," "us," and "our." Also, mark whom Daniel specifically lists as having sinned against the Lord.
3. Mark Eye Openers.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

I intentionally saved this topic for Daniel 9 for three reasons. First, in Daniel 9 we find the author reading Jeremiah. Second, Daniel's prayer brings to mind other places in Scripture. Third, the last part of chapter 9 can only hope to be understood by viewing it in light of all of Scripture.

The three topics we will cover in this lesson are:

- 1) Cross-References to Build Understanding
- 2) Using Scripture to Interpret Scripture
- 3) Seeing the Forest and the Trees

CROSS-REFERENCES BUILD UNDERSTANDING

In this first step, we aren't aiming to interpret the book of Daniel. We want to see how it lines up with other parts of Scripture. Think of this step as seeing the forest. We look for themes woven into the fabric of Daniel and then see how those themes are part of the big picture of Scripture.

Marking specific topics within Daniel 9 helps the themes to emerge. I found it helpful to read this passage in the NIV and CSBV as well. Continue to mark up and make the following notes in your printed copy from the study.

1. **Mark in a distinctive way each time within the prayer that Daniel appeals to God's character. (Example: mark with "GC")**
2. **Mark in a distinctive way every sin Daniel lists that has been committed against the Lord. (Example: mark with "S")**
3. **Mark in a distinctive way the pleas that Daniel is bringing before God. (Example: mark with "P")**

Your paper is probably pretty marked up by now. Mine sure is! Have some themes begun to emerge?

A good starting point for finding cross-references is to look at the themes and figure out where they are located throughout Scripture. You can identify keywords and locate them in other Scriptures to see how those passages might be linked. Many Bibles have cross-references already listed for you. These might be in a middle column or recorded across the bottom.

In Daniel 9, we will focus our cross-referencing task on communal prayer and confession. These types of prayers are all throughout the Old Testament. Psalms 85 and 90 are two wonderful examples of communal laments. When teaching the disciples how to pray, Jesus uses a communal prayer. "Our Father" begins the prayer, and "us" and "our" are used throughout the prayer.

4. Read the following passages and tell how they remind you of Daniel's prayer.

Ezra 9:3-7	Ezra 9:10-15	Nehemiah 9:1-3	Nehemiah 9:6-10	Nehemiah 9:32-34

5. Who is listed as sinning against the Lord in Daniel 9?

6. Why do you think Daniel includes himself in that list?

Daniel appeals to God's character. He is confident in whom he is praying to. Daniel calls upon God and recounts His unchanging character.

7. Read the following passages and tell how they remind you of Daniel's prayer.

2 Kings 19:15-19	1 Kings 8:22-30

8. How does appealing to God's character shift the focus from "I need this" to "Lord, because of who you are, I trust you with my requests"?

As Daniel prays, he does not hold back from listing the sins that have been committed. He has a deep understanding that the sins of the people need to be confessed. Daniel strategically places confession before his pleas to the Lord.

9. Read Leviticus 26: 40-45. Daniel refers to the Law twice. After reading the passage, why do you think Daniel confessed the sins of the people, appealed to God's character, and made requests of the Lord in that specific order?

Cross-References! So fun, right?! There are so many more that I could draw from, but we only have one lesson, and there are other topics to cover.

USING SCRIPTURE TO INTERPRET SCRIPTURE

The phrase "let Scripture interpret Scripture" might sound good, but what does it entail? Is it just one of those phrases smart Biblical scholars throw around? Or is this something we can all grasp?

In its simplest form, Scripture interpreting Scripture means examining a topic through the lens of the entirety of Scripture. When we use all of Scripture to cross-reference and work through word studies, we can discover a clearer picture of a particular topic. There are times when Scripture interprets Scripture rather quickly. In Luke 8, Jesus told a parable and then explained the parable directly to the disciples. Most of the time, this process is longer and more involved.

In Daniel, a fascinating thing happens. Chapter 9 opens with Daniel reading the writings of Jeremiah. All of the scholars I found agree that Daniel is reading Jeremiah 25:1-14 and/or Jeremiah 29:1-11. Let's not miss the amazing fact that when we sit and read Jeremiah, we are reading exactly what Daniel read! Also, stop for a moment and realize that the reading of Jeremiah's words led to a very intense time of prayer. God's words through Jeremiah moved Daniel to prayer. How often do we let the words of God move us to prayer- especially a time of weeping and pleading before the Lord?

10. Read Jeremiah 25:1-14 and 29:1-11 and list the similarities between these passages and Daniel 9.

In verses 21 and 22, Gabriel gives insight and understanding to Daniel. Why does Gabriel come? In verse 23, Gabriel says that Daniel is "greatly loved." What an amazing testimony to Daniel!

The remainder of the chapter is Gabriel's explanation. Even though we have the recorded words of an angel sent from God, this passage can still be very confusing.

Dr. Akin quotes several different scholars on their perspective of these verses:

Alistair Begg - "In what follows, I reserve the right to change my mind later this evening, and as often as necessary for the rest of my life, until I finally settle the matter."

Joyce Baldwin - "The last four verses present the most difficult text in the book."

Take heart if you are confused; you are in good company. Let us listen to Dr. Akin's wise advice,

"There is, without question, difficulty in the details. However, we must not let that reality distract us from the big picture that is clear and plain for us all to see. ..."

What is clear to Dr. Akin? I will give you the rest of the quote after you have had time to read and think through Daniel 9 some more.

11. Read verse 24. Make a list of the six things that Gabriel tells Daniel have been decreed about the people and the city. (This might be a good time to compare versions. Other versions word this list slightly differently.)

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____

If the verses about weeks confuse you, that's okay. We will focus on the list above. These things sound familiar to other passages in Scripture, so we look for these themes in other passages. To do that, we cross-reference.

To find the passages below, I began researching the list above. I looked for passages with similar words, phrases, or themes. ESV.org has a great search bar you can use to look up words and phrases.

12. In the following chart, write how the passages on the left link to the topics you listed above from Daniel 9:24.

Other Passages	Link to Daniel 9
Romans 6:22	
Isaiah 9:6-7	
Isaiah 10:23	
Isaiah 40:1-2	
Isaiah 62:11-12	
Jeremiah 33:5-9	
Micah 7:18-20	
Revelation 5:1-10	
2 Timothy 2:19	
1 Peter 2:24	
Titus 3:4-7	
Ephesians 1:13-14	

13. Summarize what you think the decree in verse 24 is describing.

The remainder of Dr. Akin's quote says:

"...God has a specific plan in which Messiah will come and deal decisively with sin, though he will be executed in the process, and many troubles will precede and follow that coming."

Through this exercise, you read many verses to think through what is occurring in Daniel 9. Hopefully, it helped you to grasp the bigger idea behind Daniel 9:24-27. Do you agree with Dr. Akin about the big picture of Daniel 9? If not, that is okay. As stated earlier, many scholars wrestle with these verses, and you should too. I will include a few resources at the end of the week if you want to further your study of these passages.

SEEING THE FOREST AND THE TREES

When looking for the big picture, we don't want to not lose the forest for the trees. When searching for themes, plots, or recurring words, however, we are looking for the "trees." To find the coherency of Scripture, we need to see the forest *and* the trees.

You might think I have you looking for tiny details—such as reading all the above Scriptures and tying them into the entirety of Daniel 9:24-27. Other times, you might feel like you are just getting a big overhead view—such as comparing Daniel's prayer to other prayers in Scripture. To rightly understand how individual pieces fit into the larger picture, we often need to look for the forest (the big picture) and the trees (the smaller links). By thinking through both the big picture and the details, we can see how the passage is intertwined with the entirety of God's Word.

By answering the end-of-week questions, you will be bringing together the forest and the trees to gain a deeper understanding of Daniel 9.

QUESTIONS

1. What did you notice about the attributes of God in the book of Daniel this week?

2. What deeper insights did you gain about God's plans and purposes this week in the book of Daniel?

3. If you have any questions from Chapter 9 and haven't written them down, please record them here.

4. How can you use Daniel's example of prayer to challenge how you pray for your community?
(Especially the community of your church.)

5. Although chapter 9 is not a historical narrative, think through the application questions from Week 8.

a) How do my observations impact how I view God?

b) Is there an example to follow or not follow? Or both?

c) Are there any doctrinal issues to rethink?

d) Are there any sins that I need to forsake?

e) Are there any promises I need to claim?

f) How does this passage point to Christ?

6. Consider adding information from chapter 9 to your outline.

RESOURCES:

These are audio teachings by E.J. Young on Daniel 9:24-27. There are two of them.

<https://resources.thegospelcoalition.org/library?utf8=%E2%9C%93&query=daniel+9%3A24>

This is another audio about Daniel 9.

<https://resources.thegospelcoalition.org/library/daniel-prays>

John Piper's Sermon on Daniel 9:1-23 is found at this link.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/scripture/daniel/9/messages>

WEEK 11 OF BIBLE STUDY

Discovering the Value of an Eyewitness Account

DANIEL 10

GOALS:

- To examine how an eyewitness account varies from a narrative
- To understand how literary devices show emphasis

MATERIALS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THESE GOALS:

- Printed copy of Daniel (provided with study)
- Variety of Colored Pencils
- Pens and/or Pencils
- Highlighters
- Notecard of Symbols

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK: *God Will Be Near During the Hard Times.*

"But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flames shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." ~Isaiah 43:1-3a

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Mighty God and Father, you overwhelm us with your great mercy. At the time of our greatest need you surprised us with your wondrous love. Jesus offered his life for us to remove our dreadful curse. As you draw us into this renewing relationship of love, may we respond with gratitude as we offer the substance of our souls to continue the ministry of Christ. For his name and glory we pray and present our gifts. Amen! (The Worship Sourcebook)

WRITING THESE THINGS

A few years back, I was given my first opportunity to help teach our ladies on the books of 1, 2 and 3 John. I read and reread those passages numerous times! While reading 1 John, it struck me how extremely purposeful he was in how he opened his letter.

Read 1 John 1:1-4 and note what is underlined.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

In these four verses, he emphasizes that he has heard, seen, and touched the things concerning the words of life. Why is this important? John is saying, "TRUST ME!" He is reminding his readers that these aren't things he's been told by someone who heard it from someone else who heard it from a friend. John is saying "We were there! We know! We saw!" He has first hand knowledge of Christ. He pleads with his readers to believe him so others may have fellowship with believers, with the Father, and with Jesus Christ.

He also writes these things so that "our joy may be complete." What could that possibly mean? He, and the other disciples, can't have complete joy unless others believe what they have seen and join with them in their faith. So, what does this have to do with Daniel? I believe we see this same emphasis of an eyewitness account with the plea to believe in Daniel 10.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS

A while back our family was returning from the movies when we were in a car accident. To this day, I can describe to you in detail what we saw, heard, felt, and smelled, and how it affected our physical bodies. I could describe in detail what it did to our van. If you were to ask a passerby what had happened, they might say, "Oh there was a car accident. I think everyone was fine." But they didn't experience what I experienced. They didn't feel what I felt or see what I saw. They aren't retelling an eyewitness account; to them it isn't personal.

In Daniel 10, Daniel is saying, "Listen to me! I experienced something first hand, and I need you to believe me." Daniel wasn't a passerby, an observer, or one of the guys that fled (vs. 7). No, it happened to him, and he writes this account so we will believe him.

ACTIVITIES FOR CHAPTER 10:

1. Using the symbols provided or by creating your own, mark up chapter 10.
2. Mark Eye Openers.
3. Also mark in a distinct way the words "word" and "vision."

EMPHASIS UNFOLDED

To unfold Daniel 10, we are going to do things a bit differently. Often in my study, I turn to grammar to help me decipher what has been written. I begin to look for verbs, adjectives, conjunctions, etc. However, I am not an English teacher, so instead of looking for parts of speech, we are going to look at broader categories an author may use to communicate. As we dive into these categories, you might find some overlap—no worries. Extra study of the Word and seeing how it fits in various places isn't going to hurt.

CATEGORY #1: SENSES

We have five senses: taste, touch, sight, sound, and smell. Throughout Daniel 10, there are numerous references to the senses. Some are very obvious: "your words have been heard" (verse 12). Others are much more implicit such as in verse 3: "I ate no delicacies" (taste) and "nor did I anoint myself" (touch). Many scholars agree that anointing would have soothed dry skin, but Daniel withheld this soothing ointment from himself. By looking at how Daniel records the ways his senses were engaged in what was happening, we find him fully immersed in the events of the story.

1. Mark in a distinctive way every reference to senses. (I used a pink highlighter.)
2. Record in the chart below phrases from Daniel 10 that match each sense.*

Taste	Touch	Sight	Sound

*The sense of smell did not appear in this chapter so it didn't get a column in the chart.

CATEGORY #2: ACTION

When looking for action in passages, we are essentially searching for the verbs. We aren't limiting it to just verbs but instead searching for phrases that expand our understanding of what is occurring. When reading Daniel 10, I was struck by how much action seems to take place—especially since chapter 10 is a conversation. Yet, when compared to Daniel 5 or 6, there seems to be a more dramatic scene taking place. Think on a few of the actions described in chapter 10:

"I was standing on the bank."

"I stood up trembling."

"I fell on my face."

There is an intense scene unfolding, and Daniel's use of language draws us in. It makes us sit up and pay attention. We become invested in what is happening to him.

3. **Mark in a distinctive way the actions in Daniel 10. (I underlined these in purple.)**
4. **In the chart below, record the actions of Daniel and the heavenly beings in the chapter.**

Daniel	Heavenly Beings

CATEGORY #3: DESCRIPTIONS

If we were to limit our descriptions to the simple definition of an adjective, we might focus too much on one word (or on making our English high school teacher proud) and miss other important types of descriptive words. So, instead, we are looking for any kind of descriptive words and phrases. As you have already seen, the descriptions in Daniel 10 are often tied to the senses. Daniel describes what he saw, what he heard, what he felt. In addition, he includes descriptions of how the actions are being performed. He didn't just get on his hands and knees; he was trembling on his hands and knees. Daniel didn't just see a man in verse 5; he goes into great description of what the man looked like. These descriptions help us to wrap our minds around the actions and senses we are told about. Remember, you are reading a first hand account of this interaction. Daniel wants you to feel like you know just as much about the event as he does, and to do that, we must read carefully.

*Side note: some scholars believe that the man in verse 5 is Christ; others don't. Some believe that there are two angels in Daniel 10. I will include information on this debate on the resource page. For our purposes, we will divide the beings into vs 5-9 and vs. 10- 21

5. **Mark in a distinctive way the descriptive words and phrases. (I used a yellow highlighter.)**
6. **Record in the chart below pertinent descriptions that you want to remember.**

Daniel	Heavenly Being #1	Heavenly Being #2

CATEGORY #4: EXPECTATION OF OBEDIENCE

Expectations of obedience are usually stated in an imperative sentence. Several times within chapter 10 Daniel is given instructions. It doesn't simply end with the instructions, but with an expectation of obedience. Daniel finds encouragement towards obedience from the one commanding him and from the way he is being commanded. In verse 10, Daniel is touched to give him strength to obey, and, as is Daniel's pattern, he responds with obedience. Was his obedience easy? The answer seems to be no since he is still trembling in verse 11. Daniel was instructed to carry the burden of these prophecies. It would be a toll on his physical body as well as his heart and mind.

7. **Mark in a distinctive way any instructions given in Daniel 10.**

8. In the chart below record the verse(s) and the instructions found in Daniel 10.

Verse(s)	Instructions

PERSONAL IMPACT

Daniel experienced these things personally. They impacted his heart, mind, and body. We are told to love the Lord our God with our heart, mind, body, and soul. As the scene unfolds, we can see how Daniel's devotion to the Lord is evident.

9. Read through Daniel 10 and record in the chart below some of the ways Daniel's love for God is displayed.

Heart (Emotions)	Mind (Mental/Thinking)	Body (Physical)

Daniel gave all of himself over to be a servant of the Lord. It was a life of commitment regardless of the costs. The example of Daniel challenges us to love the Lord with all that we have.

USING OUR STUDY TOOLS

You have put in a lot of work this week reading and searching through Daniel 10. Now we turn to our previously learned study tools.

10. What big Biblical picture do you see in Daniel 10?

11. What themes do you observe in Daniel 10?

12. How would you classify the genre of Daniel 10? How does that affect how you read this chapter?

13. Personal Application

a) How do my observations impact how I view God?

b) Is there an example to follow or not follow? Or both?

c) Are there any doctrinal issues to rethink?

d) Are there any sins that I need to forsake?

e) Are there any promises I need to claim?

f) How does this passage point to Christ?

QUESTIONS

1. What did you notice about the attributes of God in the book of Daniel this week?

2. What deeper insights did you gain about God's plans and purposes this week in the book of Daniel?

3. If you have any questions from Chapter 10 and haven't written them down, please record them here.

4. Consider adding information from Chapter 10 to your outline.

WEEK 12 OF BIBLE STUDY

Prophecy within Daniel

DANIEL 11

GOALS:

- To not feel overwhelmed by apocalyptic literature
- To identify pieces of prophecy
- To examine the purposes of this literary genre

MATERIALS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THESE GOALS:

- Printed copy of Daniel (Provided with study)
- Variety of Colored Pencils
- Pens and/or Pencils
- Highlighters
- Notecards of Symbols

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK: *God Will Give Light in the Midst of Darkness.*

Because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. ~Luke 1:78-79

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

The Lord has done great things for us! And we are filled with joy!

Our God has turned our weeping into singing, our tears into songs of joy!

O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day, and remain in us forever. Amen (From The Worship Sourcebook)

ACTIVITIES FOR DANIEL 11:

1. Using the symbols on your notecard, mark up chapter 11, adding any additional words or phrases found in Chapter 11.
2. Mark Eye Openers.

WHEW, WHAT A LESSON!

This week was a hard one to write. Wrestling with apocalyptic literature that scholars debate and write entire books over made me feel in over my head. Yet, I did what I know to do; I looked for common themes and ideas. I dug for the details and looked for the bigger picture. I prayed—a lot! I also read books, articles, and bribed my husband with coffee dates to help me think through this week. But, I am so glad that I put in the hard work!!

Do I understand exactly what the prophecies mean or how they have come or will come to pass? Nope. But, I don't need to be discouraged. At the end of this message, Daniel asked, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?" (12:8). The answer given to Daniel is simply, "Go your way, Daniel." (12:9) Daniel was given the vision but not the explanation. He was asked to trust His God, and I implore you to do the same thing. Don't become overwhelmed if you are confused or lack understanding. You are in the same boat as the great and mighty man of God, Daniel! That comforts me.

APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

I think the phrase "apocalyptic literature" sends many of us running for the hills. We might avoid it or read it really fast just to check it off the list. Too often we are afraid to confront the confusion head on and consider it deeply. You have already wrestled through four chapters of apocalyptic literature! You have gained knowledge and understanding of God's word. Be encouraged as you go deeper this week.

Apocalyptic literature is found throughout various books of the Bible. Most notably, this literary style is found in Revelation, Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah. The word *apocalyptic* comes from the Greek word meaning "to reveal" or "to unveil." Dr. Akin says, "David 7-12 is primarily what we call apocalyptic literature, which is marked by visions and vivid word pictures." We have seen this imagery played out in the chapters we have already read, and these visions will continue through the next two chapters.

OUTLINING A CHAPTER

There is a lot of movement in this chapter. In order to keep from feeling overwhelmed, I found it helpful to break these 45 verses into smaller groups. Outlining this chapter into smaller sections helps to organize this large chapter.

We will divide this chapter into four pieces to outline. I am giving you an example for verses 2-4. The kings in verses 2-4 don't last very long, but their locations are listed along with brief descriptions of events. I outlined these few verses this way:

1. Three Kings arise in Persia
 - A 4th will come much richer
2. A 4th king will go against Greece
3. A 5th king comes who does what he wants
 - He won't last long
 - His kingdom won't go to the other kings

The goal for me was to follow the train of thought not to create a detailed outline.

The first outline you created for the entire book of Daniel is a good example of what you are working towards. The goal for that outline was to gain an overall perspective of the entire book. In writing this outline, you aren't attempting to decode the prophecy, but rather, following the train of thought.

The three pieces you will outline are: verses 5-9, verses 20-39, and verses 40-45. Follow the instructions below. They are designed to help you gather your thoughts to create your outline.

1. **Mark "King of the South" and "King of the North" in a distinct way. I used "KoS" and "KoN." There are a lot of the words "he" and "his." To the best of your ability, decipher which king is being referred to.**
2. **Mark or list the important moments for these Kings. For example, I found it important that in verse 6 there is an attempted alliance. If you don't find it important, it's fine not to list it.**
3. **Mark any phrases that include the word "time." (ex. "At the appointed time")**
4. **Write an outline for verses 5-19.**
5. **A prominent leader arrives in verse 21. Mark or list the characteristics and main actions of this leader described in verses 21-39.**
6. **Write an outline for verses 20-39.**
7. **List the major events of this ruler's rise and fall found in verses 40-45.**
8. **Write an outline for verses 40-45.**

That was a good bit of work, so, if you need to, take a break and come back later. The study of Scripture is a task. Look at Daniel! He gets worn out, passes out, is physically ill, and has to be strengthened by an angel to continue in these visions. Scripture tells us to love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Loving and living for Christ is an all in effort. Don't be shocked if you get weary. Most importantly, don't give up! It is more rewarding than can ever be imagined.

IDENTIFY THE PIECES

You have been honing your skills to identify common denominators within a genre or text. This week we will identify three elements within apocalyptic prophecy. These elements will help build your understanding of these passages.

****Who is Giving the Prophecy?***

Within apocalyptic literature, there is a connection between the heavenly and earthly realms, and often this connection is seen by who is delivering the message.

9. **Who is speaking in Daniel 11:1? (Refer back to Daniel 10)**

10. Identify the messengers in the following passages:

Passage	Messenger
Ezekiel 1:28	
Daniel 9:21	
Zechariah 1:19	
Revelation 17:1	

****Narrative Framework***

Prophecy is most often in the form of narrative or poetry. Daniel 11 is written in narrative form. We can't employ all of the tools we used for Historical Narrative, but we can borrow a few. In fact, you have already done most of this work by writing your outline.

11. Identify the main characters within the prophecy of Daniel 11.

12. Identify the setting/settings:

13. Plot: Plot will be different within a prophecy. Instead of retelling a past story, a future story is being told. Questions to ask yourself are as follows: What were the aims or goals of the kings? What conflict arose because of these goals? (Hint-lots of war, destruction, captivity, etc.) What is the resolution? (Hint – What happened to these kings)?

a) Goal –

b) Conflict –

c) Resolution –

****Explanation Given (or not)***

Explanations of prophecies are not always given. In Daniel 9:22 Gabriel says, "I have now come out to give you insight and understanding." He then proceeds to give Daniel an explanation. But here in Daniel 11, there is no explanation. The lack of explanation encourages me that the angel expected Daniel to trust in the Lord not in an explanation. We can examine and understand the history of this passage, but let us not miss that at its heart we are expected to trust in God's plan.

THEMES WITHIN THE NARRATIVE

"The emphasis actually is not so much the hopelessness of the present as on the hopefulness of the future."-Grant R. Osborne, author of *The Hermeneutical Spiral*

This is so well said! Let us keep it in the forefront of our minds as we contemplate the words of the angel to Daniel.

****Involvement of the Heavenly Realm in Earthly Affairs***

The angel's appearance to deliver a message isn't just a piece of the genre, but also a part of the purpose. The appearance of angels speaks loudly to the involvement of the heavenly realm in earthly affairs. Throughout the last chapters of Daniel, the heavenly realm (or spiritual realm) interacting with the earthly realm is prominent. Let us also take note that these angles aren't quiet about why they have come.

17. Record in the chart below the reasons given for the angels' involvement.

Passage	Reason for Appearance
Daniel 8:15	
Daniel 9:22	
Daniel 9:23	
Daniel 10:11	
Daniel 10:12	
Daniel 10:13	
Daniel 10:18-19	
Daniel 11:1-2	

**** Temporary Triumph of Evil***

The theme of temporal triumph of evil is seen throughout the Scriptures. Within Daniel this theme is not only played out in the visions and prophecies, but also in the world where Daniel lives. Daniel 7 and 8 take place during the reign of Belshazzar. This is the same king whose life is recorded in Daniel 5. Daniel 9 takes place during the reign of Darius the Mede from chapter 6. Daniel is living in a time where evil has triumphed. The messages given to Daniel reveal that this temporary triumph of evil will not be a short lived scenario.

18. Record in the chart below the evil deeds these verses prophecy about. (This is just a small sample of verses within these chapters.)

Passage	Evil's Triumph
Daniel 7:5	
Daniel 7:21	
Daniel 8:6	
Daniel 8:24	
Daniel 9:25	
Daniel 11:3	
Daniel 11:24	

****God's Ultimate Triumph***

If we were to stop with evil's triumph, we would become utterly discouraged. Thankfully the prophecies don't stop there, but continue with the encouragement that God will have the ultimate victory. Daniel's hope isn't swayed by the evil surrounding him or the evil to come. He is focused on the promise that God will prevail.

19. How do you see God's ultimate victory in these passages?

Passage	God's Triumph
Daniel 7:9-10	
Daniel 7:14	
Daniel 7:27	
Daniel 9:24	
Daniel 11:45	
Daniel 12: 1	

Let's acknowledge that Daniel was written before the birth of Christ; however, we read these passages in light of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Christ's resurrection from the dead ushered in triumph over death and sin. Jesus brought us the hope of eternal life through His work on the cross. This triumph over death, the grave, and our sin is the ultimate answer to the suffering in this broken world. When it comes to understanding God's ultimate triumph, we look back to the cross and the resurrection and look forward to Christ's reign.

20. To further your understanding of this truth, read Revelation 22:3-5. How do these truths encourage your heart and give you assurance that God will be victorious over evil?

****Call of God's people to endure***

It is not easy to live in this broken world. It also isn't easy to know that hard times lie ahead and we can't change them. The Scriptures speak of the physical effects this knowledge had on Daniel. It was a hard burden to carry. God used these messages of a coming hope to help His people to endure. They endure with the hope that God will conquer evil, that His reign will come, and that we will be with Him forever. They looked to a future hope. In Daniel, we don't see direct charges to the people of how to endure, but we do see how endurance is implied.

21. Read the following passages and list in the chart below how endurance is encouraged.

Passage	Call to Endurance
Daniel 7:25-27	
Daniel 8:27	
Daniel 9:22-23	
Daniel 10: 10-11	
Daniel 10:18-19	

Another aspect of endurance is how we live during trials, hardships, and sufferings. We have seen time and time again Daniel's consistency in his faith and obedience. When told not to pray, he prays. In Chapter 3, when the three friends are threatened with death, they choose obedience. Daniel is clearly a man of prayer and a student of the Holy Scriptures. Because his faith is unwavering, his faith is unshakeable.

Unlike Daniel, we live on this side of the resurrected Christ. We have the Holy Spirit who dwells with us and a High Priest who intercedes for us. Our hope that we can endure rests fully in the work of Christ, the love of the Father, and the comfort of the Spirit.

22. Read Romans 5:1-5. How do all parts of the Trinity work to help us endure during our sufferings?

***Restoration to God**

Osborne in his book, *The Hermeneutical Spiral*, makes an argument that the point isn't that human history ends. Rather, it's that human history, as we know it, is "both ended and transformed." That is the endgame. It isn't that God wants to bring us to an end, but that He wants to bring us to restoration and transformation. These apocalyptic passages point to the fact that we will dwell with God, fully restored to live with Him for eternity.

23. Read the following passages and record in the chart below how they speak to our restoration to God.

Passage	Restoration to God
Daniel 7:14	
Daniel 7:22	
Daniel 7:27	
Daniel 12:2-3	

Daniel looked forward to a future hope of a Savior. Christ came to restore God's people. God dwelling with His people is a theme throughout Scripture. He walked in the garden. He dwelled in a tent. His presence was in the temple. He spoke to the prophets. Ultimately, He sent His son to come and walk the Earth. Our Heavenly Father desires to be near to us! We live with the hope that He will not stop until He has completed His work of being with His children.

24. Read Revelation 21: 1-4. What does this ultimate restoration to God mean to you?

As your week draws to a close, I truly hope that you have been able to see the beauty of our hope in Christ. Think on how Daniel looked ahead to a future hope. Think on how he was given a burden to carry by seeing these visions but was faithful to this burden. We might not know exactly who the kings of the north and the south are in Daniel, but we know God sees the future, and we can trust Him to stay close to His children through whatever is to come.

QUESTIONS

1. What attributes of God did you notice in the book of Daniel this week?

2. What deeper insights did you gain about God's plans and purposes in this week's study?

3. Are there any personal application questions that you need to apply?

a) How do my observations in Daniel 11 impact how I view God?

b) Is there an example to follow or not follow in Daniel 11? Or both? What are those examples and what can you learn from them?

c) Are there any doctrinal issues to rethink or think deeper on? If yes, what are they and how will you rethink them?

d) Are there any sins that you need to forsake? If yes, then what are they, and how will you begin to forsake those sins?

e) Are there any promises to claim? If so, what are they, and how do they encourage you today?

4. The temporary triumph of evil is seen in the broken world we live in. How does studying this section encourage you to obey and keep the faith in the midst of such difficult times? How does Daniel's endurance encourage you in your own suffering?

5. Consider adding any information from Chapter 11 to your outline.

If you are interested in the history of these prophecies and how they were expected to come true, please read or listen to Dr. Akin's talks on Daniel 11. He does a fantastic job examining all of the history surrounding this chapter. Also, being Dr. Akin, he has great personal application points at the end.

Resources:

<https://www.danielakin.com/civil-war-just-like-god-said-it-would-happen-daniel-111-20/>

<https://www.danielakin.com/antiochus-epiphanes-and-antichrist-the-arch-enemies-of-gods-people-daniel-1121-45/>

WEEK 13 OF BIBLE STUDY

Finding Christ in the Old Testament

DANIEL 12

GOALS:

- To understand how Christ is present in all of Scripture
- To meditate on how Christ is the fulfillment of God's promises

MATERIALS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THESE GOALS:

- Printed copy of Daniel (provided with study)
- Variety of Colored Pencils
- Pens and/or Pencils
- Highlighters
- Notecard of Symbols

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK: *Nothing Can Separate Us From the Love of God.*

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ~Romans 8:38-39

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

*Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! You, Lord Jesus Christ, are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth. To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever! Amen! –from Revelation 5:9-13, NRSV (from *The Worship Sourcebook*)*

ALMOST THERE!!

This is your last chapter of Daniel! Can you believe it?!

You have studied and poured into the word for 12 weeks. You have written and researched. You have prayed and thought deeply. Now you come to the end of Daniel, and I am so proud of you! This week we will continue to dive deeper as we seek to honor Christ through all of Scripture.

IS CHRIST THE CENTER OF SCRIPTURE?

Do we believe that Jesus Christ is the unifying message of all of Scripture? If so, are we saying that every passage in the OT has a direct relation to Jesus? If we say no, are we bad Christians? If we say yes, are we saying that the Old Testament is useless unless we find Jesus in every passage?

These are questions that the church has thought over for years. The most important question we must answer is whether the Bible itself testifies that all of Scripture is about Jesus.

****Bible Bookends***

When we studied Historical Narrative, we looked at "bookends" as a literary tool used to draw focus to the meaning of a text. Let's examine how this literary tool points to Christ.

Genesis 1:1-2 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

- 1. Read John 1: 3 and Colossians 1:16. Summarize how creation is described in these verses.**

Revelation 22:20-21 "He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen."

- 2. How do these "bookends" of the Bible point to Christ being the center of the Scriptures?**

We also want to read what Christ spoke about Himself.

- 3. Read Luke 24: 25-26 and John 5:39. What did Christ testify about Himself in relation to Scripture?**

What about the apostles and disciples? How does Christ play an integral part in the writings of the OT as well as God's plans and purposes?

4. Read the following passages and record in the chart below how they speak of Christ's integral role in God's plan

Passage	Christ's Role in God's Plans
1 Peter 1:10-11	
1 Peter 4:11	
Ephesians 1:3	
Romans 16:25-27	
Hebrews 1:1-3	

5. Summarize how you personally view Christ's role in all of Scripture.

There are entire books written on this topic and all we are doing is skimming the surface. If this is an area you are wrestling with, I encourage you to read and research. (Remember to use reliable resources.)

START WITH WHAT YOU KNOW

Before diving into our topic for the week, we want to begin with incorporating the study tools we already know. Always start with the study of the text to ensure respect for the original meaning.

ACTIVITIES FOR CHAPTER 12:

1. Using the symbols on your notecard mark up Chapter 12.
2. Mark Eye Openers.

Before continuing into our lesson, Daniel 12 needs to be unfolded a bit more. Chapter 12 is a continuation of Chapters 10 and 11. There is no gap between these chapters, but there is a shift of focus.

- 1. Read Daniel 12:1-3 and summarize the prophecy given regarding what will happen to the people of God (3 sentences or less).**

The scholars I found agree that verse 4, "shut up and seal the book," is to be understood as an emphasis of authenticating the writings as well as preserving them. With this command, there is an assurance that these words will not be changed or tampered with.

There is disagreement about the meaning of the end of verse 4. Dr. Akin states, "I cautiously take it in a positive sense." In contrast, Dr. Tremper Longman III states, "Indeed, the best understanding of the 'many will go here and there to increase knowledge' is a negative one." Look to outside resources to study this verse on your own.

The prophecy ends in verse 4. The beginning of verse 5 signifies a shift in scene and setting.

- 2. Read Daniel 10:4-7. Compare the characters, setting, etc., to Daniel 12: 5-7.**

- 3. Whom do you think is the "man clothed in linen"? Why did you draw that conclusion? (Revelation 1:12-16 is a good reference as you think through these questions.)**

Daniel has been an observer in verses 5-7. After observing, Daniel expresses his own lack of understanding. Instead of an explanation, he is given more instructions, prophecy, and encouragement.

- 4. Read Daniel 12:9 and 13. What instructions are given to Daniel? What promises are given to Daniel?**

5. In verse 10, two groups are being compared. Fill in the blanks below.

- a) Many shall _____ themselves and make themselves _____ and be _____.
- b) But the wicked shall _____.
- c) And none of the wicked shall _____, but those who are wise _____.

To examine verses 11 and 12 and their possible interpretations, read Dr. Akin's manuscript. The link is found on the resource page.

HONORING CHRIST AND THE ORIGINAL TEXT

By putting in the work above, we have honored the text for its original purpose. To look intently at how Christ is present in Daniel 12, we are going to draw from weeks 5 and 6 by seeking the wide-angle lens view as well as biblical themes.

6. Using Professor Locke's circle of repetitive movements (Blessing, Allowance of Evil, Judgement, Deliverance), which of these movement pieces are present in Daniel 12? How are they present?

7. Think back to the three R's-Rescue, Restore, Reign. Which of these are present in Daniel 12? How are they present?

8. List a few of the themes that you see in Daniel 12.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:19-20:

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaim among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory.

David L. Baker puts the idea of this verse wonderfully in his book *Two Testaments, One Bible*,

"The New Testament announces that the promises have been fulfilled above all in the coming of Jesus as the promised Messiah. All the hopes of the Old Testament find their supreme fulfillment in the one who is both Son of God and Son of Man; who is Judge, Priest, King, Prophet and Teacher, who is the Lamb of God and the Good Shepherd; who is the Servant of the Lord and the Wisdom of God."

Every week there has been a promise for the week. Let's examine a few of these promises and how they are present in Daniel 12. We will also explore how they are relevant for us and fulfilled through Christ.

- 9. Week 1 – The Lord will instruct His children. What instructions are given to Daniel in Daniel 12: 9 and 13? Read John 10:27-28. How do we know Jesus' instructions? What wonderful promises accompany our following Him?**

- 10. Week 4 – God hears our prayers. What evidence do we have in Daniel 12 that Daniel's prayers were heard? Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How is this promise so much richer through Christ?**

- 11. Week 7 – God's word will accomplish its purpose. How is this promise seen in Daniel 12? (Verses 4 and 9 are helpful.) Read Matthew 5:17-18. How does Jesus reiterate this promise?**

- 12. Week 9 – We are secure in Christ. Though written before the birth of Christ, this promise is still important to us as we read Daniel 12:1-2. How is this promise present in Daniel 12:1-2? Read Hebrews 10:19-23. How do these verses magnify the truth of our security?**

FINDING CHRIST IN THE PASSAGE

I would be amiss to leave this lesson and not address what to do when the stories and writings of the Old Testament appear difficult to understand how they point to Christ. I find the best way to do this is by thinking in terms of the big picture and biblical themes. In the book of Judges, we see the themes of sin, evil, need for redemption, etc. In Esther, even though God's name isn't mentioned, we observe how His sovereignty is on display.

Let's leave Daniel 12 and look back at Daniel 5. Daniel 5 tells about a hand writing on a wall, a wicked king, a crazy party, and a faithful servant. When we worked through Daniel 5, we took note of character, setting, dialogue, etc. You also took time to look at Daniel 5 through the lens of 2 Timothy 3:16-17. In doing so, you thought through how the Scripture applies to you today. You moved from examining and respecting the original text to examining how it is relevant today.

Is Jesus Christ relevant today? If your answer is yes, then where do we find the line drawn to Christ in Daniel 5? If you need to, reread Daniel 5 and your answers to the questions in regards to 1 Timothy to answer the following questions.

13. Based on the examples in Daniel 5, how do we live a life honoring Christ?

Getting to the gospel moves our hearts beyond the struggle to perform and towards the love and freedom of Christ. For this reason, we link our studies to the hope found in our salvation in Jesus.

14. How does the hope of the gospel impact how you think through the personal applications of Daniel 5?

PULLING IT BACK

In order to look for Christ correctly, we must hold a high view of the word of God in both the Old and the New Testaments. I like the way that Ligonier Ministries puts this into correct view for us:

“The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God. Although it consists of a collection of sixty-six writings by multiple authors spanning hundreds of years, it is one book with one message of salvation. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible reveals how God saves sinners through His one and only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

By weaving together what you have observed about the big picture, themes, and promises of chapter 12, you begin to see God’s plan of salvation coming to fulfillment.

15. Summarize how Chapter 12 reveals God’s plan to save sinners and how that plan has come to pass.

As the book of Daniel closes, we find Daniel in a position many of us are familiar with. He is lacking in understanding while trusting God to bring about the promises He has spoken. Daniel doesn’t need to understand everything he has seen and heard to live a life of obedience, trust, and faith. As we live in the salvation of Christ, we hope for the future of Christ’s reign. To walk in faith and hope, we must keep our hearts and minds committed to the pursuit of understanding and honoring Christ through the entirety of Scripture.

QUESTIONS

1. What did you notice about the attributes of God in the book of Daniel this week? (If there are any more you would like to add.)

2. What deeper insights did you gain about God's plans and purposes this week in the book of Daniel?

3. If you have any questions from Chapter 12, record them here.

4. Consider adding information from chapter 12 to your outline.

5. Personal application questions:

- a) How do my observations impact how I view God?

- b) Is there an example to follow or not follow? Or both?

- c) Are there any doctrinal issues to rethink?

d) Are there any sins that I need to forsake?

e) Are there any promises I need to claim?

f) How does this passage point to Christ?

WEEK 14 OF BIBLE STUDY

Attend to These Things

GOALS:

- To pause and reflect on Daniel
- To acknowledge what you have learned
- To remember the work of the Lord

MATERIALS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THESE GOALS:

- Daniel Bible Study
- Pen/Pencils

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK: *The Lord's Steadfast Love Endures Forever.*

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever. ~Psalm 136:1-3

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Common Book of Prayers)

WORDS TO CONSIDER:

People often ask what my favorite Bible verse is. This is such a difficult question for me! Depending on my day, my mood, or my life circumstances, different verses will be what I cling to for the day. But this one from Psalm 107 resonates with me as I study God's word.

Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things;

let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD. ~Psalm 107:43

This verse gives wonderful instruction for how to finish a Bible study well. I strongly encourage you to read all of Psalm 107. (It is one of my favorite Psalms.) To summarize, it is the story of God's goodness to His children. He delivered them, gathered them, satisfied them, burst their bonds, healed them, and on and on. What had the people done? They were sinful fools who sat in darkness; they were evil and wandered away, and on and on. Psalm 107 is the story of God's never ending, never failing, always and forever love toward His children.

At the end of this Psalm, the instruction is summed up nicely in, "Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the Lord." As we finish our study of Daniel and reflect on what we have studied, we need to pause and consider the words and lessons from Daniel as well as God's steadfast love

Reflection is our focus this week. You have done the work, now take time to reflect on all that you have learned and all that God has revealed to you. Take time to review, reread, and contemplate your answers to the following questions. Think through the entire book of Daniel as you answer these questions.

1. What themes do you think are most prominent in the book?

2. What impressed you about Daniel (the person not the book)?

3. Which of God's attributes do you see displayed the most? How has that impacted your view of God?

4. How do the lives of Daniel and his friends encourage you during times of fear and uncertainty?

5. Examine the prayers of Daniel and how God answered them. How do these bolster your desire and commitment to prayer?

6. Many scholars view the book of Daniel as a display of God's sovereignty. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

7. If you were asked how the book of Daniel impacted you, what would you say?

8. Summarize the central message of the book of Daniel. (Goal is 5 to 7 sentences)

9. In week 1 the first question you answered was, "Why are you here?" Reread your answer. Did you achieve what you wanted? Did you gain something different than you thought you would? Did you learn something different? Did you learn what you wanted?

Throughout the Bible there is a recurring theme of being planted and rooted in the faith.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. ~Psalm 1:3

Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit. ~Jeremiah 17:7-8

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ~Colossians 2:6,7

-that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ~Ephesians 3:17b-19

This imagery shows the life of a firmly planted believer.

10. How will your study of the book of Daniel help your roots be planted firmly in the faith?

11. How has the book of Daniel increased:

a) Your awe of who God is?

b) Your praise?

12. How has the book of Daniel spurred you on to live a life of obedience that flows from the abundant steadfast love you have been given by your Good Father, your Gracious Savior, and your ever present teacher in the Holy Spirit?

Thank you for all the time and work you have put into this study. I hope that as you close out Daniel you will take these tools with you to study other passages. Then, you can pass on what you know to others and help others learn to study the Scripture deeply.

May the Lord greatly bless and increase your knowledge and love for Him through what you have learned and stored up from the study of His Holy Word.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL (ESV)

DANIEL 1

DANIEL TAKEN TO BABYLON

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 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. 3 Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family^[a] and of the nobility, 4 youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. 5 The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. 6 Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. 7 And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

DANIEL'S FAITHFULNESS

8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. 9 And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, 10 and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king." 11 Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12 "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see." 14 So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. 15 At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. 16 So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

17 As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 18 At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. 20 And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. 21 And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

DANIEL 2

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. 2 Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. 3 And the king said to them, "I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream." 4 Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation." 5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins. 6 But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation." 7 They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show its interpretation." 8 The king answered and said, "I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is firm— 9 if you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the times change. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation." 10 The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "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 enchanter or Chaldean. 11 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."

12 Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. 13 So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them. 14 Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. 15 He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. 16 And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.

GOD REVEALS NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, 18 and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. 20 Daniel answered and said:

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
to whom belong wisdom and might.

21 He changes times and seasons;
he removes kings and sets up kings;
he gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those who have understanding;

22 he reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what is in the darkness,
and the 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."

24 Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation."

25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: "I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation." 26 The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?" 27 Daniel

answered the king and said, "No wise men, enchanter, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, 28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: 29 To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. 30 But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.

DANIEL INTERPRETS THE DREAM

31 "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. 32 The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 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. 35 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.

36 "This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. 37 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. 39 Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. 40 And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. 41 And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. 44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring

them to an end, and it shall stand forever, 45 just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure."

DANIEL IS PROMOTED

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. 47 The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery." 48 Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.

DANIEL 3

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S GOLDEN IMAGE

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. 2 Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 3 Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 4 And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace." 7 Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

THE FIERY FURNACE

8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. 9 They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! 10 You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. 11 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. 12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall

down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. 20 And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. 21 Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. 22 Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." 25 He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. 27 And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. 28 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins,

for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way." 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

DANIEL 4

NEBUCHADNEZZAR PRAISES GOD

King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! 2 It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me.

3 How great are his signs,
how mighty his wonders!

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S SECOND DREAM

4 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. 5 I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me. 6 So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. 7 Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation. 8 At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream, saying, 9 “O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation. 10 The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. 11 The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. 12 Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it.

13 “I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. 14 He proclaimed aloud and said thus: ‘Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. 15 But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. 16 Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let

a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him. 17 The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.' 18 This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you."

DANIEL INTERPRETS THE SECOND DREAM

19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said, "Belshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you." Belshazzar answered and said, "My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies! 20 The tree you saw, which grew and became strong, so that its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth, 21 whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which beasts of the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of the heavens lived— 22 it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth. 23 And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven periods of time pass over him,' 24 this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, 25 that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. 26 And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. 27 Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity."

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S HUMILIATION

28 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. 29 At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30 and the king answered and said, "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?" 31 While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, 32 and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will." 33 Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR RESTORED

34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever,

for his dominion is an everlasting dominion,

and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;

35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,

and he does according to his will among the host of heaven

and among the inhabitants of the earth;

and none can stay his hand

or say to him, "What have you done?"

36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

DANIEL 5

THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand.

2 Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. 3 Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. 4 They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

5 Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote. 6 Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together. 7 The king called loudly to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers. The king declared to the wise men of Babylon, "Whoever reads this writing, and shows me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom." 8 Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation. 9 Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, and his color changed, and his lords were perplexed.

10 The queen, because of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting hall, and the queen declared, "O king, live forever! Let not your thoughts alarm you or your color change. 11 There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers, 12 because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Beltshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation."

DANIEL INTERPRETS THE HANDWRITING

13 Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king answered and said to Daniel, "You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah. 14 I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. 15 Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they could not show the interpretation of the matter. 16 But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom."

17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation. 18 O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty. 19 And because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whom he would, he killed, and whom he would, he kept alive; whom he would, he raised up, and whom he would, he humbled. 20 But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him. 21 He was driven from among the children of mankind, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. He was fed grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will. 22 And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, 23 but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.

24 "Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. 25 And this is the writing that was inscribed: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin. 26 This is the interpretation of the matter: Mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; 27 Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; 28 Peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

29 Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

30 That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. 31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

DANIEL 6

DANIEL AND THE LIONS' DEN

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; 2 and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. 3 Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. 4 Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. 5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

6 Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! 7 All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. 8 Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." 9 Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.

10 When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. 11 Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. 12 Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, "O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." 13 Then they answered and said before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."

14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. 15 Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed."

16 Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!" 17 And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. 18 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

19 Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. 20 As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" 21 Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm." 23 Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. 24 And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. 26 I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God,
enduring forever;
his kingdom shall never be destroyed,
and his dominion shall be to the end.

27 He delivers and rescues;
he works signs and wonders
in heaven and on earth,
he who has saved Daniel
from the power of the lions.”

28 So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

DANIEL 7

DANIEL'S VISION OF THE FOUR BEASTS

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. 2 Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. 4 The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. 5 And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.' 6 After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8 I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

The Ancient of Days Reigns

9 "As I looked, thrones were placed,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat;
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames;
its wheels were burning fire.

10 A stream of fire issued
and came out from before him;
a thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;

the court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

11 "I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

THE SON OF MAN IS GIVEN DOMINION

13 "I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.

14 And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.

DANIEL'S VISION INTERPRETED

15 "As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. 16 I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. 17 'These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.'

19 "Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, 20 and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. 21 As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

23 "Thus he said: 'As for the fourth beast,
there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth,
which shall be different from all the kingdoms,
and it shall devour the whole earth,
and trample it down, and break it to pieces.

24 As for the ten horns,
out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise,
and another shall arise after them;
he shall be different from the former ones,
and shall put down three kings.

25 He shall speak words against the Most High,
and shall wear out the saints of the Most High,
and shall think to change the times and the law;
and they shall be given into his hand
for a time, times, and half a time.

26 But the court shall sit in judgment,
and his dominion shall be taken away,
to be consumed and destroyed to the end.

27 And the kingdom and the dominion
and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven
shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High;
his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom,
and all dominions shall serve and obey him.'

28 "Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart."

DANIEL 8

DANIEL'S VISION OF THE RAM AND THE GOAT

In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first. 2 And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the citadel, which is in the province of Elam. And I saw in the vision, and I was at the Ulai canal. 3 I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. 4 I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward. No beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.

5 As I was considering, behold, a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. 6 He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath. 7 I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns. And the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power. 8 Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven.

9 Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land. 10 It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them. 11 It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. 12 And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper. 13 Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, "For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?" 14 And he said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state."

THE INTERPRETATION OF THE VISION

15 When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. 16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." 17 So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, "Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end."

18 And when he had spoken to me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face to the ground. But he touched me and made me stand up. 19 He said, "Behold, I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end. 20 As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia. 21 And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king. 22 As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power. 23 And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. 24 His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. 25 By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand. 26 The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now."

27 And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.

DANIEL 9

DANIEL'S PRAYER FOR HIS PEOPLE

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— 2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

3 Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. 4 I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 5 we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. 6 We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. 7 To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you. 8 To us, O Lord, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. 9 To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him 10 and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. 11 All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him. 12 He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem. 13 As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us; yet we have not entreated the favor of the Lord our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth. 14 Therefore the Lord has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon us, for the Lord our God is righteous in all the works that he has done, and we have not obeyed his voice. 15 And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

16 "O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us. 17 Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. 18 O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. 19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name."

GABRIEL BRINGS AN ANSWER

20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the Lord my God for the holy hill of my God, 21 while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. 22 He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. 23 At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.

THE SEVENTY WEEKS

24 "Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. 25 Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. 26 And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. 27 And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week,^[g] and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

DANIEL 10

DANIEL'S TERRIFYING VISION OF A MAN

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.

2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. 3 I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks. 4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris) 5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. 6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude. 7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves. 8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. 9 Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.

10 And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. 13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."

15 When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute. 16 And behold, one in the likeness of the children of man touched my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me, "O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no

strength. 17 How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me."

18 Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. 19 And he said, "O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage." And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." 20 Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.

DANIEL 11

THE KINGS OF THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH

"And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him.

2 "And now I will show you the truth. Behold, three more kings shall arise in Persia, and a fourth shall be far richer than all of them. And when he has become strong through his riches, he shall stir up all against the kingdom of Greece. 3 Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion and do as he wills. 4 And as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not to his posterity, nor according to the authority with which he ruled, for his kingdom shall be plucked up and go to others besides these.

5 "Then the king of the south shall be strong, but one of his princes shall be stronger than he and shall rule, and his authority shall be a great authority. 6 After some years they shall make an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement. But she shall not retain the strength of her arm, and he and his arm shall not endure, but she shall be given up, and her attendants, he who fathered her, and he who supported her in those times.

7 "And from a branch from her roots one shall arise in his place. He shall come against the army and enter the fortress of the king of the north, and he shall deal with them and shall prevail. 8 He shall also carry off to Egypt their gods with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold, and for some years he shall refrain from attacking the king of the north. 9 Then the latter shall come into the realm of the king of the south but shall return to his own land.

10 "His sons shall wage war and assemble a multitude of great forces, which shall keep coming and overflow and pass through, and again shall carry the war as far as his fortress. 11 Then the king of the south, moved with rage, shall come out and fight against the king of the north. And he shall raise a great multitude, but it shall be given into his hand. 12 And when the multitude is taken away, his heart shall be exalted, and he shall cast down tens of thousands, but he shall not prevail. 13 For the king of the north shall again raise a multitude, greater than the first. And after some years he shall come on with a great army and abundant supplies.

14 "In those times many shall rise against the king of the south, and the violent among your own people shall lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they shall fail. 15 Then the king of the north shall come and throw up siegeworks and take a well-fortified city. And the forces of the south shall not stand, or even his best troops, for there shall be no strength to stand. 16 But he who comes against him shall do as he wills, and none shall stand before him. And he shall stand in the glorious land, with destruction in his hand. 17 He shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall bring terms of an agreement and perform them. He shall give him the daughter of women to destroy the kingdom, but it shall not stand or be to his advantage. 18 Afterward he shall turn his face to the coastlands and shall capture many of them, but a commander shall put an end to his insolence. Indeed, he shall turn his insolence back upon him. 19 Then he shall turn his face back toward the fortresses of his own land, but he shall stumble and fall, and shall not be found.

20 "Then shall arise in his place one who shall send an exactor of tribute for the glory of the kingdom. But within a few days he shall be broken, neither in anger nor in battle. 21 In his place shall arise a contemptible person to whom royal majesty has not been given. He shall come in without warning and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. 22 Armies shall be utterly swept away before him and broken, even the prince of the covenant. 23 And from the time that an alliance is made with him he shall act deceitfully, and he shall become strong with a small people. 24 Without warning he shall come into the richest parts of the province, and he shall do what neither his fathers nor his fathers' fathers have done, scattering among them plunder, spoil, and goods. He shall devise plans against strongholds, but only for a time. 25 And he shall stir up his power and his heart against the king of the south with a great army. And the king of the south shall wage war with an exceedingly great and mighty army, but he shall not stand, for plots shall be devised against him. 26 Even those who eat his food shall break him. His army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. 27 And as for the two kings, their hearts shall be bent on doing evil. They shall speak lies at the same table, but to no avail, for the end is yet to be at the time appointed. 28 And he shall return to his land with great wealth, but his heart shall be set against the holy covenant. And he shall work his will and return to his own land.

29 "At the time appointed he shall return and come into the south, but it shall not be this time as it was before. 30 For ships of Kittim shall come against him, and he shall be afraid and withdraw, and shall turn back and be enraged and take action against the holy covenant. He shall turn back and pay attention to those who forsake

the holy covenant. 31 Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. 32 He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action. 33 And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder. 34 When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery, 35 and some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time.

36 "And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done. 37 He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all. 38 He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. 39 He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price.

40 "At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. 41 He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites. 42 He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43 He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train. 44 But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction. 45 And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.

DANIEL 12

THE TIME OF THE END

"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. 6 And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?" 7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished. 8 I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?" 9 He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. 10 Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand. 11 And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. 13 But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."