



Quiz

Q1. How many languages were used to write the book of Daniel?

Q2. What do you think is the function of the book of Daniel and Revelation?

Q3. How does Daniel and Revelation help us to live faithfully today?

Structure and theology of Daniel

Why study the book of Daniel and Revelation?

There is need of a much closer study of the word of God; **especially should Daniel and the Revelation have attention as never before in the history of our work.** We may have less to say in some lines, in regard to the Roman power and the papacy; but we should call attention to what the prophets and apostles have written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit has so shaped matters, both in the giving of the prophecy and in the events portrayed, **as to teach that the human agent is to be kept out of sight, hid in Christ, and that the Lord God of heaven and His law are to be exalted.** Read the book of Daniel. Call up, point by point, the history of the kingdoms there represented. Behold statesmen, councils, powerful armies, and **see how God wrought to abase the pride of men, and lay human glory in the dust....** (TM 112)

Why study the book of Daniel and Revelation?

When the books of Daniel and Revelation are **better understood**, believers **will have an entirely different** religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that **heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop** in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart.

The Lord **will bless** all who will seek humbly and meekly to understand that which is revealed in the Revelation. This book contains so much that is large with immortality and full of glory that all who read and search it earnestly **receive the blessing** to those “that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.” Revelation 1:3. (TM 114)

How should we read and understand Daniel?

- Hebrew Scriptures are not linear.
- They often employ literary devices to assist in making a deep theological emphasis.
 - The narratives within the book are arranged in a special way.
 - The narratives often employ inductive techniques that are foreign to us:
 - E.g. Compare 1Sam 25:1 with 28:3
 - E.g., Prov 11:9-12
 - E.g., Prov 27:10
 - Within the narratives and prophecies, special structural arrangements can be found.

How should we read and understand Daniel?

- The whole book is divided by two different languages:
 - 1:1 - 2:4a – Hebrew
 - 2:4b - 7:28 – Aramaic
 - 8:1 - 12:13 – Hebrew
- This division tells us something about the book.

How should we read and understand Daniel?

- In 1972, A. Lenglet published in his study of the literary structure of Daniel.
 - Aramaic section of the book are arranged in a chiastic order.
 - In a chiasm, the central element is the emphasis.
 - What are the themes of chapters 2-7?

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C. <i>Dan 4</i>: Nebuchadnezzar's Insanity	C'. <i>Dan 5</i>: Belshazzar's Downfall
B. <i>Dan 3</i>: Fiery-furnace Persecution	B'. <i>Dan 6</i>: Lions'-den Persecution
A. <i>Dan 2</i>: Prophecy of the Nations	A'. <i>Dan 7</i>: Prophecy of the Nations

William H. Shea, "Further Literary Structures in Daniel 2–7: An Analysis of Daniel 5, and the Broader Relationships within Chapters 2–7," *Andrews University Seminary Studies* 23, no. 3 (1985): 277–295.

How should we read and understand Daniel?

- There are also chiasms within the chapters:
 - Chiasm by content is located within chiasm by form.

Dan 4:3

**How great are his signs,
how mighty his wonders!**

**His kingdom is an everlasting
kingdom,
and his dominion is from gen-
eration to generation.**

Dan 4:34d -35

**For his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
and his kingdom endures from generation
to generation. ...**

How should we read and understand Daniel?

- But... there's more chiasm within chiasm by content:
 - Dan 4:34d-35

**For his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;**

**All the *inhabitants of the earth* are accounted as nothing;
and he does according to his will in the *host of heaven*
and among the *inhabitants of the earth*;**

**And none can stay his hand
or say to him, "What doest thou?"**

How should we read and understand Daniel?

- There is also alternate correspondences:
 - E.g., Dan 2:20-23
 - A. (v20) Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of **God (3rd person)** for ever and ever:
 - B. for wisdom and might are his: (v21) And **he** changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:
 - C. (v22) **He** revealeth the deep and secret things:
 - D.** he knoweth what [is] in the darkness (**dream**), and the light dwelleth with him. **[emphasis]**
 - A'. (v23) **I (change of pronoun)** thank **thee**, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers,
 - B'. who hast given me wisdom and might,
 - C'. and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee:
 - D'. for thou hast [now] made known unto us the king's matter. (dream) [emphasis]**

How should we read and understand Daniel?

- What does this all mean?
 - Carefully studying the literary structures of the book can reveal to us what may not be apparent to us on the surface.
 - We may find theological emphasis that we may have not been aware of.
 - Corresponding sides of the chiasm inform one another.
- What do you think is the central burden of the Aramaic section?

C. *Dan 4*: Nebuchadnezzar's Insanity

C'. *Dan 5*: Belshazzar's Downfall

B. *Dan 3*: Fiery-furnace Persecution

B'. *Dan 6*: Lions'-den Persecution

A. *Dan 2*: Prophecy of the Nations

A'. *Dan 7*: Prophecy of the Nations

How should we read and understand Daniel?

- Daniel 8-12 – three discourses
 - A. Dan 8:1-28
 - B. Dan 9:1-27 ← Messianic prophecy at the center**
 - A'. Dan 10:1-12:13

When we present from the book of Daniel, always remember to center it around Christ.

Structure of Daniel 1

Daniel 1

Dan 1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

What can we learn here? What questions do you have?

How would you subtitle this section?

Daniel 1

Dan 1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

Dan 1:2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

What can we learn here? What questions do you have?

How would you subtitle this section?

Daniel 1

Dan 1:3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles,

Dan 1:4 young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.

What can we learn here? What questions do you have?

How would you subtitle this section?

Daniel 1

Dan 1:5 And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.

What can we learn here? What questions do you have?

How would you subtitle this section?

Daniel 1

Dan 1:6 Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

Dan 1:7 To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

What can we learn here? What questions do you have?

How would you subtitle this section?

Daniel 1

Dan 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Dan 1:9 Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.

...

Dan 1:16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

What can we learn here? What questions do you have?

How would you subtitle this section?

Dan 1:17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Dan 1:18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

Dan 1:19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king.

Dan 1:20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

What can we learn here? What questions do you have?

How would you subtitle this section?

Daniel 1

Dan 1:21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.

What can we learn here? What questions do you have?

How would you subtitle this section?

Structure of Daniel 1

A. Prologue (vv. 1-2)

B. King's plan to educate (vv. 3-4)

C. The issue of diet (v. 5)

D. The attempt to change identity (vv. 6-7)

C'. The issue of diet (vv. 8-16)

B'. God educated them (vv. 17-20)

A'. Epilogue (v. 21)

What do you see?

Called to Stand: Faithful in Crisis

Main text: Daniel 1:7-9

Big Idea: In a world that pressures and seduces us to compromise, we must purpose in our hearts to remain faithful to God, trusting Him to sustain us and use our example to strengthen others.

Background: God Is Still Present in the Crisis

Judah's unfaithfulness led to captivity.

Jerusalem fell, but God had not abandoned His people.

God's presence went with the captives into Babylon.

1. Babylon Pressures Us from the Outside

Renames us — attacks our identity.

Re-educates us — reshapes our thinking.

Feeds us — reshapes our appetites and worship.

Makes compromise appear necessary for survival.

2. Babylon Seduces Us from the Inside

Offers success, recognition, comfort, and influence.

Builds identity on achievement and self-exaltation.

Replaces God's plan with our own plans.

Makes compromise sound practical and wise.

3. We Must Purpose in Our Hearts

Daniel settled the matter before knowing the outcome.

Faithfulness begins with a private decision.

Following God often means going against the flow.

Spiritual growth requires choosing conviction over convenience.

5. When We Stand, God Sustains Us

Israel was conquered, but Israel's God was not.

God gave Daniel favor, wisdom, and influence.

God may not remove the crisis, but He sustains us through it.

No faithful stand for God is ever forgotten.

6. Our Faithfulness Helps Others Stand

Daniel's decision influenced his three friends.

Small tests prepared them for the fiery furnace.

Faithfulness grows through shared courage.

Your faithfulness can become someone else's courage.

Appeal: Will I purpose in my heart to stand with God—though the heavens fall?



Discuss!

What do you think is the hardest kind of pressure God's people face in this world?

Which is harder to resist: open persecution or subtle pressure to conform?

What kind of pressure is most likely to make a faithful person compromise?