

The Book of Daniel

A Book of Encouragement Showing that God is in Control.

To summarize the introduction of the Book of Daniel:

The underlying message in Daniel is:

- God is in control,**
- The nations are subject to the will of God...not the will of man, and**
- God will preserve His people through trouble.**

By revealing specifics of His plans, God prepares and encourages His people for the future.

Daniel confirms the identity of Jesus Christ as Messiah, by foretelling the exact month and year of Messiah's death and the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple following.

The book of Daniel lays the groundwork for the return of Messiah, detailing events that will take place in the end of days, leading to the return of Messiah.

To understand the Book of Daniel, you have to know the person of Daniel; his upbringing, his desires, his actions, his understanding as to his reason for being on planet earth.

We are the same way! To understand Gerald, you have to know a little about his upbringing, his desires in life, his actions and accomplishments in the past, what he is doing at present...and what he wants to accomplish in the future.

Who is Daniel and why is He important to understanding God's Plan for His people?

Dan = means "judge" or "one who judges" (Hebrew).

Yah" is a contraction for "Yahweh"...the "I AM"

"El" = means God.

Put it together...Daniel means "God is my judge."

Daniel's life was characterized by:

- Faith**
- Prayer**
- Courage**
- Consistency**
- Lack of compromise**

According to the Word, Daniel had other known attributes:

- **No physical defects**
- **Handsome**
- **An aptitude for every kind of learning**
- **Well informed**
- **Quick to understand**
- **Did not defile himself with food offered up to idols**
- **Qualified to serve the King**
- **Could understand and interpret dreams and visions of all kinds (with God's help).**

Daniel 1:4-6; 1:17, "...young men without any physical defects, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the King's palace..... Among them were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah." 1:17, "To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

Other Documented Character Traits and Facts about of Daniel:

- Of the 2930 Bible characters, Daniel is one of the few well-known characters about whom nothing negative is ever written.
- The Book of Daniel uses the example of Daniel and his friends as the godly/right way for saints to act in the face of trouble... knowing God is in control despite the difficulty.
- Daniel was among the Jewish captives who were brought to Babylon from Jerusalem after Nebuchadnezzar conquered the city. Daniel was still a youth but apparently of high status (Daniel 1:3).
"Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility."
- Daniel is mentioned by his 6th century counterpart, Ezekiel, as an example of righteousness, Ezekiel 14:20, *"as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, even if Noah, Daniel and Job were in it, they could save neither son nor daughter. They would save only themselves by their righteousness."*
- Jesus mentions Daniel, the Prophet in Matthew 24:15 (speaking of the end-times), *"So when you see standing in the holy place the abomination that causes desolation, spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand."*
- Daniel's life and ministry span the entire seventy-year period of Babylonian Captivity.
- Daniel was deported to Babylon (some 900 miles away) when he was sixteen years old.
- He was selected for special service in Babylon, and was given three years of training in the best of Babylon's schools. Daniel 1:5.
- During the reign of Darius, a plot against Daniel results in his being put in the den of lions. At a minimum, Daniel would be at least 82 years old when that occurred.
 - 621 B.C. - Daniel was born.

- 605 B.C. - Daniel was carried to Babylon at age 16.
- 539 B.C. - (October) Persia overthrows Babylon.
- 621 B.C. minus 539 B.C. = 82 years old at the time of Babylon's fall to the Persians.
- **He was given a Babylonian name by the chief official when he was brought in to be trained for service in the King's court-**

Daniel 1:7, *"The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego."*
New Name for Daniel —Belteshazzar, meaning "Bel Protects his Life."

Again, names were very important in most of your kingdoms of that era:

Remember, Daniel = "God is my Judge"

What about the three Hebrew children? Hebrew names were:

Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

Hananiah = "Yah has been gracious"

Mishael = "Who is what God is"

Azariah = "Yah has helped"

New names for the Daniel and the other three Hebrew boys:

Daniel, "Belteshazzar = Bel protects His life"

Hananiah, "Shadrach = Inspired of Aku"

Mishael, "Meshach = Belonging to Aku"

Azariah, "Abednego = Servant of Nego"

Named from names honoring the One and Only True God to:

The false gods of the Babylonians: Bel, Nego, and Aku.

Note: Renaming the young men accordingly was a deliberate attempt to echo constant contradictions of the truth regarding their God.

Why? To change the name was a blatant intention to:

- Change the entire identity of the bearer until the life matched the title.
- Marked new ownership
- Hail a new destiny.

Satan counterfeits everything God stands for; even the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.....Satan's trinity: Satan (god), Anti-Christ, the false prophet.

This must have been one of the most depressing times for Daniel and the three Hebrew boys. They must have felt like striking back...But, they did not!

Remember, "Failure is success when you learn from it."

And they knew God would come through for them.

God actually originated the concept of name change to reflect the new destiny.

Remember, Abram's name (Exalted Father) was changed to Abraham (Father of Many/Multitudes).

Sarai (quarrelsome) was changed to Sarah (Princess or Noble Lady).

When God changes a name, He is pointing out a new destiny.

It is also called a "status change."

You might call it a "spiritual promotion."

Through Abraham, that is - by the authority in his name, all the families of the earth will be blessed.

"And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed." (Gen 12:3)

What's in a Name?

God does all for the glory of His name.

As He is the author of creation, let's begin with His name.

God is Elohim. His name is Yahweh:

יהוה

The word is spelled, reading from right to left: yod, hey, vah, hey. The letter we are interested in here is the "hey" -

ה

This letter represents the "spirit."

We see this expressed twice in His name. It is the "**spirit**" of God that fulfills two things here; the "what" and the "how."

It is not the "what" that we want to discover, but the "how." God will reveal His purpose. The "what" or purpose of the name change is in His promise.

Yahweh - יהוה

We will see that God took one "hey" from the middle of His name and placed it in the middle of Abram's name. We also see the same for the "hey" on the end of His name, with which He did the same with Sari, thus making her name Sarah.

Abram + ה = Abr^הam or Abraham

Sari + ה = Sar^ה or Sarah

Now we see the "Spirit" of God in the mother and in the father of God's people.

We see the greater purpose of the name change. It was to "establish" God's covenant which would later be revealed in Yeshua, JESUS—OUR MESSIAH!

How important is your name?

It means life or death...heaven or hell!

Is your name in the Lamb's Book of Life?

Revelation 20:15, "If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

Be proud of your name! Do everything you can to not dishonor your name or, especially, your Heavenly Father's!

Today...

- (1) Make sure your name is in the Lamb's Book of Life**
- (2) Make sure you are living up to God's standards for living up to His name. Your name is important...But, God's name is to be revered, honored, and exalted.**

Parallels between the Visions of the Book of Revelation and the Visions of the Prophet Daniel

THE VISION	DANIEL	REVELATION
1. Three and a half time period (a time, 2 times and ½ a time)	Chapter 12:7	Chapter 11:9, 11
2. The ten horns	Chapter 7:8	Chapters 12:3, 13:1; 17:3, 8
3. The Leopard, the Bear, and the Lion	Chapter 7:4-6	Chapter 13:2
4. The Beast mouthing boasting and blasphemies	Chapter 7:8, 11	Chapter 13:5
5. The war against the Saints	Chapter 7:21	Chapter 13:7
6. The worship of the Beast's statue	Chapter 3:5-7, 15	Chapter 13:15
7. The Son of Man coming on the Glory-Cloud	Chapter 7:13	Chapter 1:7 and 14:14

Parallels between the Visions of the Book of Revelation and the Visions of the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

THE VISION	EZEKIEL	REVELATION
1. The Throne Vision	Chapter 1	Chapter 4
2. The Book Being Opened	Chapters 2-3	Chapter 5
3. The Four Plagues	Chapter 5	Chapter 6:1-8
4. Those Slain Under the Altar	Chapter.6	Chapter 6:9-11
5. The Wrath of God	Chapter 7	Chapter 6:12-17
6. The Seal on the Saint's Foreheads	Chapter 9	Chapter 7
7. The Coals from the Altar	Chapter.10	Chapter 8
8. The 1/3 Destruction	Chapter 5:1-4 and 12	Chapter 8:6-12
9. No More Delay	Chapter 12	Chapter 10:1-7
10. The Eating of the Book	Chapter 2	Chapter 10:8-11
11. Prophecy against the Nations	Chapters 25-32	Chapter 10:11
12. The Measuring of the Temple	Chapters 40-43	Chapter 11:1-2
13. Comparing Jerusalem to Sodom	Chapter 16	Chapter 11:8
14. The Cup of Wrath	Chapter 23	Chapter 14
15. The Vine of the Land	Chapter 15	Chapter 14:18-20
16. The Great Harlot	Chapters 16, 23	Chapters 17-18
17. The Lament Sung Over the City	Chapter 27	Chapter 18
18. The Scavenger's Feast	Chapter 39	Chapter 19
19. The First Resurrection	Chapter 37	Chapter 20:4-6
20. The Battle of Gog and Magog	Chapter 38-39	Chapter 20:7-9
21. The New Jerusalem	Chapters 40-48	Chapter 21
22. The River of Life	Chapter 47	Chapter 22

Matthew 18:16: *“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’”*

Between Daniel, Revelation...and Ezekiel, the Word is established as truth by the witnesses.

