

BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Daniel

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Introduction to Daniel

Title

- ✓ Hebrew = *Daniēl* (דָּנִיֵּאל; “Daniel: God is my judge”)
- ✓ Greek = *Daniēl* (ΔΑΝΙΗΛ; “Daniel”)

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Introduction to Daniel

WHO—Authorship

✓ Daniel

WHO—Audience

✓ Israel in exile and the nations around them

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Introduction to Daniel

WHEN

✓ Daniel was taken to Babylon in 605 BC

✓ Latest date mentioned is 536 BC (10:1).

✓ Daniel's age was probably mid-80's or early 90's of age during his last days of prophecy.

✓ Spans from Babylon's first exile of Israel (605 BC) through the reign of the Medo-Persian empire

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Introduction to Daniel

WHEN—Chronology

✓ Chapter 1—Daniel Taken into Exile

✓ Chapter 2—Golden Statue (Rock destroys it)

✓ Chapter 3—Fiery Furnace

✓ Chapter 4—Large Tree (Nebuchadnezzar is humbled)

✓ Chapter 7—Ancient of Days and the Son of Man

✓ Chapter 8—Vision of Ram and Goat

✓ Chapter 5—Writing on the Wall

✓ Chapter 6—Lions' Den

✓ Chapter 9—Daniel's Prayer and 70 Weeks

✓ Chapter 10—Angel explains battle with Prince of Persia

✓ Chapter 11—Northern and Southern Kings Battle, leading to Antiochus IV Epiphanes

✓ Chapter 12—End Times and Resurrection

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Introduction to Daniel

WHERE

- ✓ Babylonian Province (cf. 2:48), the citadel of Susa, one of the capitals of Medo-Persia (8:2), and the Tigris River (10:4).
- ✓ Israel is in exile wondering if Babylon is in control now
- ✓ Unique focus on God’s authority over nations

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Introduction to Daniel

WHY

To instruct Israel and all nations that though Israel resides in exile now, their God, Yahweh, reigns, not only over Israel, but over all nations and kings, and one day His Kingdom will be given to a Man who is equal with God and will subdue every nation, every person, and all creation under His authority.

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Introduction to Daniel

HOW—Terminology

- ✓ Authority (Dominion, Rule; 2:38, 39, 48; 3:27; 4:3, 22, 34; 5:7, 16; 6:24, 26; 7:6, 12, 14, 26, 27; 11:5)
- ✓ King (Kingdom; 1:1 (2x), 2, 3, 4, 5 (3x), 8, 10 (2x), 13, 15, 18, 19 (2x), 20 (2x), 21; 2:1, 2 (3x), 3, 4 (2x), 5, 7, 8, 10 (3x), 11 (2x), 12, 14, 15 (2x), 16 (2x), 21 (2x), 23, 24 (3x), 25 (2x), 26, 27 (3x), 28, 29, 30, 31, 36, 37 (4x), 39 (2x), 40, 41, 42, 44 (4x), 45, 46, 47 (2x), 48, 49 (2x); 3:1; etc.)
- ✓ Gold (2:32, 35, 38, 45; 3:1, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 18; 5:2, 3, 4, 7, 16, 23, 29; 11:8, 38, 43)

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Introduction to Daniel

HOW—Themes

- ✓ Sovereignty of God over the Kingdoms of Man (chapters 2–11)
- ✓ Israel as a Remnant Subject to the Gentiles (chapters 1, 9)
- ✓ Progression of Gentile Kingdoms (chapters 2, 7)
- ✓ Pride of Gentile Kings (chapters 2–5; 7–8; 11)
- ✓ Ultimate Establishment of God’s Kingdom (2, 7, 12)
- ✓ Son of God (3:25) and Son of Man (7:13)
- ✓ Hebrew-Aramaic Interplay

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Visions and the Nations

Nations	Chapter 2	Chapter 7	Chapter 8
Babylon	Head of Gold	Lion	
Medo-Persia	Breast & Arms of Silver	Bear	Ram
Greece	Belly & Thighs of Bronze	Leopard	Goat (little horn)
Rome	Legs of Iron	Dreadful beast with Iron Teeth (little horn)	
Revived Rome	Feet of Iron & Clay	Ten Horns	

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Introduction to Daniel

HOW—Themes

- ✓ The Little Horn (7:8, 20–26; 8:9–14, 23–26)
- ✓ Daniel’s 70 Weeks

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Introduction to Daniel

HOW—Literary Structure

- ✓ God's Authority Portrayed (1:1 – 6:28)
 - ❖ God Protects and Rules—Statue Dream (1:1 – 2:49)
 - ❖ Nebuchadnezzar Defies God (3:1–30)
 - ❖ Nebuchadnezzar's Prayer of Repentance (4:1–37)
 - ❖ Belshazzar Defies God (5:1–30)
 - ❖ God Protects and Overrules—Lion's Den (5:31 – 6:28)
- ✓ God's Authority Promised (7:1 – 12:13)
 - ❖ God's Authority over All Nations (7:1–28)
 - ❖ International Opposition to God's Authority—Persia & Greece (8:1–27)
 - ❖ Daniel's Prayer of Repentance (9:1–27)
 - ❖ International Opposition to God's Authority—North & South (10:1 – 11:45)
 - ❖ God's Authority over His People (12:1–13)

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