

Daniel

Study Outline:

1-6 - Narratives of Daniel and his Three Friends in Exile

- 1 - Exiled
- 2 - Nebuchadnezzar's First Dream
- 3 - The Fiery Furnace
- 4 - Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream
- 5 - Belshazzar's Feast
- 6 - The Lion's Den

7-12 - Daniel's Visions

- 7 - Four great beasts
- 8 - Ram, goat, little horn
- 9 - Daniel's Prayer
- 10-12 - Final Victory

Historical Context:

Author - Daniel - "God is judge"

Ezekiel 14 refers to Daniel as being "righteous and wise".

Hebrews 11:32-33 refers to Daniel as one of, "the prophets who through faith stopped the mouths of lions."

Timing - Daniel prophesying the whole time during exile. Jerusalem and Judah have both been destroyed.

Influence - Jeremiah

It is important for us to remember that we are very much in exile now too.. So this book is incredibly applicable.

Just like the Israelites in this day... we are looking forward to the ultimate victory of Jesus reigning finally and fully.

1. Elect Exiles Live Faithfully Even Unto Death

- Read 1:1-7 - what is going on? Assimilation... but they were okay with giving up their names
- Read 1:8-9
- How have you experienced the challenges of isolation, indoctrination, assimilation? How did you fight to remain faithful?
- What does it mean to be defiled by the world? What defensive measures can you take to protect against being defiled?
- Read 1:17-21
- What are the repeated words in 2, 9, 17? What does that portray? How does it give hope to those in exile?
- What verses in the New Testament come to mind that pick up on this theme of us being exiles?
 - 1 Peter 1:1, Hebrews 10:33-35
- Read 3:6-7, 11-12, 14-25, 27-3

- Read 6:7-8, 10-11, 16-22, 23-27
- How are these two accounts similar? How did the men display courage?
 - *They choose death rather than abandon their allegiance to God. They could have!! God has saved us so that we would love him.*
 - *"I could be more useful if I cut corners here."*
 - *They are delivered from death*
 - *The king responds by worshipping and ordering decrees in favor of worship*
- How is Jesus the true and greater Daniel?
- Have you ever faced situations that caused you to have intense courage in the face of lions and fire?
- How can we live faithfully in exile?

2. Pride Comes Before the Fall but God Shows Mercy

- Nebuchadnezzar's Pride and Fall - Read 4:19-27
- Belshazzar's Pride and Fall - Read 5:17-23
- Belshazzar's Response - Read 5:29-30
- Nebuchadnezzar's Response - Read 4:34-37
 - Psalm 115:3; 145:13; Isaiah 14:27; 40:17; 43:12; 45:9
 - *Final words of Neb are him giving praise to the one true God. Witness of one faithful man over a long time... and he faithfully shares God with him.*
 - *Think about Daniel's countenance...*
- There are 9 days in the life of Daniel that he writes on, over a ministry of over 70 years. How does this encourage you?

3. Elect Exiles Have Assurance of the Victory of God's Victory

- Dream in Chapter 2 - Highlights the establishment of a kingdom that will never be destroyed
 - Read 2:44-45
 - Flip to Luke 20:16b-19. How does Jesus reference Daniel here?
- Dream in Chapter 7 - Highlights the ruler of the kingdom who exhibits the traits of deity as he comes on the clouds of heaven and receives an eternal kingdom with complete dominion.
 - Read 7:9-14; 23-27
 - What does 9-14 tell us about God?
 - *Summarize how important 9-14 is for our theology (doctrine of God, Christology, and Eschatology [end times])*
- Where in the New Testament do we read about the kingdom of God? Who is the 'Son of Man'?

4. Elect Exiles Wait for Christ's Victorious Return

- Read 12:1-6
- What are we looking forward to according to these verses?
- Read 12:9-13
- Although confusing with the numbers, what is the point of these last verses?
- How does dwelling on this future impact on living now?
- If our future is sure in Christ, why must we strive for holiness now?

*Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*He shall return in pow'r to reign
Heaven and earth will join to say
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Then who shall fall on bended knee?
All creatures of our God and King
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*