

The New Inductive Study Series

GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR BIBLE

PROPHECY

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DANIEL

Introduction

If you love prophecy or are curious (maybe even nervous) about the future, you need to familiarize yourself with the book of Daniel, God’s blueprint for prophecy. And in the midst of all its incredible prophecies that take us to the time of the end, Daniel gives us more than God’s blueprint for prophecy! The book of Daniel provides us with someone we can pattern our lives after—a man who receives accolades in heaven’s court and who is referred to as “a man of high esteem.”

It is my prayer that your passion will be to live as a person of high esteem in the eyes of God and the angelic host who serve Him. I pray that you will come to know Him as *El Elyon*, the Most High God who does according to His will in His army and among the inhabitants of the earth. In that knowledge and the relationship it brings, you, my friend, will find the peace which passes all understanding and which is able to hold you in the darkest of nights.

Such knowledge, Beloved, should enable you to be strong and do exploits...

Week 1

Determined to Be a "Daniel"

DAY ONE

Read through Daniel 1 today to familiarize yourself with the historical setting of this book. Also look for any reference to time and mark or color it in a distinctive way. As suggested in the instructions at the beginning of the book, you may want to use the symbol of a clock to mark words or phrases referring to time.

When you finish your reading, write down the names of the main characters mentioned in this chapter in your notebook. (You should stop now and take the time to learn how to spell Nebuchadnezzar and Jehoiakim.)

DAY TWO

Read through Daniel 1 again today. (If you read the chapter aloud every day you will find you grasp it more quickly and remember it more easily.)

Note the names of the two kings and the kingdoms over which each rules. Observe what one king does to the other and the result of this action. Record your insights in your notebook.

DAY THREE

Today, read Daniel 1 again and mark two key words, each in a distinctive way: *Daniel* and *God*. Be sure you remember to mark any pronouns that refer to them also. These are two key words you'll want to mark throughout the book of Daniel. The other key words you'll mark are specific to chapters or sections of the book. I'll give you those words as we progress throughout the book. (If you need help in understanding how to mark key words, go back and read the instructions related to key words in the "How to Get Started" section at the beginning of this book.)

Read 2 Chronicles 36:1-8 and look for the names of the two kings you saw mentioned in Daniel 1. If you observe any new insights on these kings, record these in your notebook with what you noted yesterday. Look for the names of these kings on the chart THE RULERS AND PROPHETS OF DANIEL'S TIME on page 19 and note the year these events take place.

DAY FOUR

Read Daniel 1 again. Observe carefully all the chapter tells you about Daniel by noting where you marked his name as a key word yesterday. In your notebook, set aside several pages to record what you learn about Daniel as you work through this book. You could call the list PROFILE ON DANIEL. Now, list what you see about him from this chapter. Remember to note

the chapter and verse reference to each insight as you move through the book. For example, your list might look something like the one on page 20.

PROFILE ON DANIEL

1. taken captive when Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem (1:1-6)
2. from Judah—of the sons of Judah (1:6)
3. selected to enter the king of Babylon’s personal service (1:5)

Remember, Daniel was called a “man of high esteem.”

The English transliteration of the Hebrew word for esteem is *chamudah*, which literally means “desirable” or “precious.” Keep this in mind as you study Daniel’s life. Look for things which caused him to be recognized as a man who was precious to God. If you, too, desire to be a man or a woman of high esteem in God’s eyes, Daniel is your model!

DAY FIVE

One goal of this study is to learn about God’s character and ways. Therefore, read Daniel 1 again. (You’re really going to know this chapter, aren’t you!) As you read today, carefully observe every reference to God you marked two days ago. If you see any references you missed, mark them.

You have begun a list of all you are learning on Daniel; now begin a list on all you’ll learn about God. Be sure to leave several pages in your notebook for your list, and remember to note the chapter and verse for each insight.

From what you learn today by compiling your list, answer the question, “Does God change?” How can the insights you are gaining help you live your life day in and day out? Think about it! If you find any LFLs—Lessons for Life—record them in your notebook (and in the margin of your Bible if you want). You may want to refer back to “How to Get Started” to refresh your memory on LFLs.

As I read through the Old Testament and see something that God does, I put a triangle in the margin and color it yellow. Then, beside the triangle, I write down what God did. For example, next to Daniel 1:2, I would print: “God delivers kings into the hands of an enemy.” If you make notes like this as you read through your Bible, you’ll have a permanent record of what God is like and of what He is able to do. You may not always understand the action, but you’ll have it written down for a future time.

DAY SIX

Today you need to read—you guessed it—Daniel 1 one last time.

When you finish your study today, record the theme of Daniel 1 on the DANIEL AT A GLANCE chart on page 126. (If someone asked you what Daniel 1 is about, what would you say? That's the theme! Once you discern the theme, reduce the thought to as few words as possible using words the Bible uses.)

Now think about all you've learned this week—just from observing the text! What do you see from Daniel's life that can be an example to you? Stop and think about it.

How would you have responded if you were in Daniel's position?

What do you learn about God from this first chapter? How can what you observe be applied to your life?

Discuss what you've learned with the Lord in prayer. You might want to write out your prayer in your notebook.

DAY SEVEN

Store in your heart: Daniel 1:8. Read and discuss: Daniel 1.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY

- • What do you learn from Daniel 1 about the timing of the events? Or, to put it another way, "What is the historical setting of the book of Daniel?" Discuss what you learned from your study this week as you observed the text and looked at the chart **THE RULERS AND PROPHETS OF DANIEL'S TIME**.
- How does understanding the historical setting of Daniel help you appreciate Daniel's situation?
- What do you learn about Daniel from this chapter?
 - a. Discuss the insights on your Daniel list.
 - b. What do you see in Daniel's life that you can apply to your own? What does he do that you need to be doing? Is there an attitude in him that you need to have?
 - c. What do you learn about Daniel that explains why one of God's angels later refers to him as a "man of high esteem"?
- • What do you learn about God from this chapter?
 - d. In relation to what happened to the king of Judah
 - e. In relation to Daniel
- From what you just discussed, what do you conclude?
- Do you think God is able to do the same things today?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Daniel found himself taken captive by a man who was a heathen—a man who didn't know God and who had no respect for the holy vessels of God. He found himself a hostage in a strange land. And whatever this 15-year-old had dreamed his future would hold, it was shattered. He was no longer free. He was held captive by a man who did not care personally for him or for his God. And, since Daniel was chosen to serve in the king's court, it is likely that he was made a eunuch (was castrated).

Yet Daniel did not become bitter or question his God; he continued to faithfully serve God. He did not break God's laws and defile himself with the king's choice food and wine. It seems that only three of the other captives stood with him in that decision.

Daniel was firm in his faith, but never disrespectful to those who did not share his faith, to those who ruled over him. And the God who was watching took notice and moved on his behalf.

O Beloved, may we be "Daniels" for the Lord. No matter the circumstances of our lives, may we be faithful to the One who is over every circumstance—the One who is rightly called the Most High God.

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