

# DANIEL

**Author: Daniel**

**Date: 605 – 536 B.C.**

Three of the most famous stories in the Bible are recorded in the book of Daniel: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the fiery furnace, the handwriting on the wall, and Daniel in the lion's den. The book is a mystery to many people as the dreams, visions, and their interpretations are somewhat difficult to understand and often debated. Daniel presents a comprehensive sweep of prophetic history. After an introductory chapter in Hebrew, Daniel switches to the Aramaic language in chapters 2 – 7 to describe the future course of the gentile world powers. Then in chapters 8 – 12, Daniel reverts to Hebrew to survey the future of the Jewish nation under foreign domination.

The name "Daniel" means "God is my Judge," and the book is named after the author and principal character. Daniel was a Jewish youth of noble birth who was carried off to Babylon in the first captivity under Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B.C. He became a member of the Babylonian royal service early in his captivity and spent most of his career as a government official under four different kings. Nebuchadnezzar's successor seem to have given Daniel less prominence, but after Babylon was conquered by the Persians, Daniel achieved considerable importance again under King Darius.

Daniel's life is characterized by faith, prayer, conviction, consistency, and courage.

## **Theme:**

The theme of God's sovereign control in the affairs of individuals and of world history clearly emerges and provides comfort to the Jews whose nation was destroyed by the Babylonians. Daniel gives hope to the future church, as well. World powers come and go, but God will establish His kingdom through His redeemed people forever.

**Key verses:** *"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His, and He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him."* (2:20-22)

## **OUTLINE**

- I. The Personal History and Dedication of Daniel (Ch. 1)
- II. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the Great Image (Ch. 2)
- III. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego and the Fiery Furnace (Ch. 3)
- IV. Nebuchadnezzar's Vision of a Great Tree (Ch. 4)
- V. Belshazzar's Feast and the Handwriting on the Wall (Ch. 5)
- VI. Daniel in the Lion's Den (Ch. 6)
- VII. Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts (Ch. 7)
- VIII. Daniel's Vision of the Ram, the Goat, and the Little Horn (Ch.8)
- IX. Daniel's Prayer and Vision of the Seventy Weeks (Ch. 9)
- X. Daniel's Vision of Israel's Future (Chs. 10 – 12)

## The Image of Daniel Chapter 2

*"Nebuchadnezzar had dreams...*

*The secret was revealed to Daniel...*

*[God] made known what will be in the latter days."*

*(Daniel 2:1, 19, 28)*

### The Image: Daniel 2:31-33

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**The head of gold =**  
Nebuchadnezzar, king  
of Babylon

*(verses 36-38)*

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**Chest and arms of silver =** Medo-Persia  
*(verse 32; Daniel 5: 30-31)*

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**Belly of bronze =**  
Greece  
*(Daniel 2:39; 8:21-22)*

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**Legs of iron =** Rome  
*(Daniel 2:40)*

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**Feet and toes =**  
Strong and weak  
governments of the  
Endtime  
*(Daniel 2:41-43)*

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**The Rock destroys the Image: Daniel 2: 34-35**

**The Rock =** Jesus  
*(Matthew 21:42-44)*

**The mountain fills the earth =** The Kingdom of God  
*(Daniel 2:44; Micah 4:1)*



# The Statue in the Book of Daniel

## The Kingdoms and King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream



### NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM (Daniel 2)

### DANIEL'S VISION (Daniel 7)

### THE KINGDOMS (Daniel 2, 7, and 8)

<p><b>HEAD (FINE GOLD)</b></p> <p>The golden head of the statue represents the kingdom of Babylon which God gave King Nebuchadnezzar to rule. (Daniel 2:37, 38)</p>	<p><b>LION With Wings of an Eagle</b></p> <p>In Scripture, Nebuchadnezzar is compared to both the lion (Jeremiah 4:7; 50:44) and the eagle (Ezekiel 17:3, 11, 12). Images of lions with eagle's wings were popular in Babylonian architecture and currency. (Daniel 7:4)</p>	<p><b>BABYLONIA 605 BC – 539 BC</b> King Nebuchadnezzar to Belshazzar</p>	650 BC
<p><b>CHEST AND ARMS (SILVER)</b></p> <p>The silver chest and arms of the statue represent the kingdoms of Media and Persia, which is the second power that would rise after Babylon falls. (Daniel 2:39, Daniel 7:5)</p>	<p><b>BEAR With Three Ribs on its Mouth</b></p> <p>The bear was raised on one side, which may illustrate the dominance of Persia over Media. The three ribs in its mouth may illustrate the three major empires Persia conquered. The bear is commanded to devour much flesh, which may be a reference to Persia's military expansion throughout the ancient world. (Daniel 7:5) Persia is also symbolized by a ram. (Daniel 8)</p>	<p><b>MEDO-PERSIA 539 BC – 332 BC</b> King Cyrus to King Darius III</p>	600 BC
<p><b>BELLY AND THIGHS (BRONZE)</b></p> <p>The bronze belly and thighs of the statue represent the kingdom of Greece. This third kingdom would rule over the whole earth. (Daniel 2:39).</p>	<p><b>LEOPARD With Four Wings and Four Heads</b></p> <p>The leopard represents the kingdom of Greece. The wings might illustrate the speed of Alexander the Great's conquest. The four heads might represent the division of Alexander's kingdom into four provinces after Alexander's death. (Daniel 7:6) Greece is also symbolized by a goat. (Daniel 8)</p>	<p><b>GREECE 332 BC – 63 BC</b> Alexander the Great and the Four Divisions</p>	550 BC
<p><b>LEGS (IRON)</b></p> <p>The fourth kingdom would be strong as iron and would break, smash and crush things.</p> <p><b>FEET (IRON AND CLAY)</b></p> <p>The fourth kingdom would be a divided kingdom, different from the others, both strong and weak. This kingdom would have a mixture of people who are not united. (Daniel 2:41-43; 7:23)</p>	<p><b>BEAST With Iron Teeth and Ten Horns</b></p> <p>The terrifying beast is also a reference to a major kingdom. Many scholars suggest this to be the Roman empire. The beast's ten horns are ten kings that would rise from this kingdom. After them, another king (the "little horn") would rise, speak against God, and persecute God's people. It is during the reign of this king when God would set up his everlasting kingdom. (Daniel 7:7, 8)</p>	<p><b>A DIVIDED KINGDOM</b></p> <p>Many scholars believe this kingdom to be Rome. Rome occupied Jerusalem in 63 BC and was still in power at the time of Jesus. (Luke 2:1)</p>	500 BC

**STONE  
Cut from a Mountain**

In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, a stone was cut out, not by human hands, and struck the statue on its feet and broke it to pieces. Then it became a great mountain that filled the whole earth. This symbolizes Jesus Christ initiating the kingdom of God that will reign forever and will never be destroyed. (Daniel 2:34, 35, 44, 45)

**SON OF MAN  
(Jesus Christ)**

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. —Daniel 7:13, 14, 27

**THE  
EVERLASTING  
KINGDOM  
OF GOD**