Synopsis of Daniel

“The theology of Daniel is clearly set forth in antithesis to the successive kingdoms of humankind. In contrast to these kingdoms is the abiding but finally triumphant kingdom of God that is central to Daniel’s message.” – The Promise-Plan of God, Location 5282

“The book of Daniel, however, goes far beyond Genesis and Esther in its perception of the hand of God at work in the world. In Daniel the work of God is seen on a global scale. Not only did God rescue his people through their courageous faith; he also promised to rescue and vindicate his people in an ultimate way and on a cosmic scale in the days of the Messiah.” – NIV Compact Bible Commentary, Pg. 396

“The basic theme of this work is the overruling sovereignty of the one true God, who condemns and destroys the rebellious world power and faithfully delivers His covenant people according to their steadfast faith in Him.” – A Survey of Old Testament Introduction, Pg. 421

I. God Protecting His People in Captivity (1-6)

“Daniel, meaning ‘God is my judge,’ was an exilic statesman and a mediator of the divine revelation for Israel and the nations. Born into an unidentified family of nobility in Judah sometime just prior to Josiah’s reformation in 622 BC, he was taken by Nebuchadnezzar along with the first captives from Judah to Babylon in 605 BC.” – The Promise-Plan of God, Location 5267

a. God’s people in exile – Daniel 1:1–7 (ESV) – 1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. 3 Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, 4 youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king’s palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. 5 The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. 6 Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. 7 And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

b. God uses His children in exile – Daniel 1:17–21 (ESV) – 17 As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had
understanding in all visions and dreams. 18 At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. 20 And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. 21 And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

“Because God allows rulers enough freedom to become bestial, the faithful sometimes suffer. Daniel's stories encourage the faithful to become involved in a pagan world, with the hope of some measure of success and effective witness, even if there are risks.” – *Theological Interpretation of the Old Testament, Location 2969*

c. **God reveals His plans to Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 2:1–2 (ESV)** – 1 In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. 2 Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king.

d. **God reveals to Daniel the dream of Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 2:17–19 (ESV)** – 17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, 18 and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

e. **Daniel testifies that God is the source of the dream – Daniel 2:27–30 (ESV)** – 27 Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, 28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: 29 To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. 30 But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.

f. **Nebuchadnezzar’s dream revealed – Daniel 2:31–45 (ESV)** – 31 “You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. 32 The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of
iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. 36 “This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. 37 You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, 38 and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold. 39 Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. 40 And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. 41 And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. 44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, 45 just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

“The statue is characterized by increasing weakness and division as one proceeds from head to toes. This image represented the human alternative to that ‘Stone’ which fell on the feet of the colossus and crushed the whole image to pieces.” – The Promise-Plan of God, Location 5289

g. **Nebuchadnezzar praises the one true God – Daniel 2:46–49 (ESV)** – 46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. 47 The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.” 48 Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king’s court.
h. **Nebuchadnezzar commands all worship him – Daniel 3:4–6 (ESV)** – 4 And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.”

i. **God’s people are targeted – Daniel 3:12–13, 16-18 (ESV)** – 12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” 13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king...16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

j. **God displays his glory through delivering His children – Daniel 3:19, 22-30 (ESV)** – 19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. 22 Because the king’s order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace. 24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” 25 He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.” 26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. 27 And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. 28 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach,
Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.” 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

“Daniel 1-3 intends to emphasize not only God’s protection of the Israelite remnant by the Lord’s desire to gain a relationship with the Babylonians as well.” – Old Testament Theology, Pg. 501

k. Nebuchadnezzar proclaims God’s glories to his people – Daniel 4:1–3 (ESV) – 1 King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! 2 It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me. 3 How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

l. A dream reveals the humbling of Nebuchadnezzar’s – Daniel 4:19–27 (ESV) – 19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said, “Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you.” Belteshazzar answered and said, “My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies! 20 The tree you saw, which grew and became strong, so that its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth, 21 whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which beasts of the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of the heavens lived— 22 it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth. 23 And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven periods of time pass over him,’ 24 this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, 25 that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. 26 And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. 27 Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.”
m. **Nebuchadnezzar is humbled – Daniel 4:28–33 (ESV)** – 28 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. 29 At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?” 31 While the words were still in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.” 33 Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles’ feathers, and his nails were like birds’ claws.

n. **Nebuchadnezzar is restored by God – Daniel 4:34–37 (ESV)** – 34 At the end of the days, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?” 36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

“Daniel stresses that God give breath, delivers, is holy, is sovereign, is just and lives forever. No idol or emperor has these characteristics, so none deserves worship. The one God still reigns, despite Israel’s exile. The exile makes God’s universal reign more evident due to the remnant’s witness to Gentiles.” – *Old Testament Theology, Pg. 504*

o. **God displays His sovereignty over another Babylonian king – Daniel 5:22–28, 30-31 (ESV)** – 22 And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, 23 but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored. 24 “Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. 25 And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and...
PARSIN. 26 This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; 27 TEKEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; 28 PERES, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”...30 That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. 31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

God again displays His glory through the protection of Daniel – Daniel 6:13–28 (ESV) – 13 Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.” 14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. 15 Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.” 16 Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” 17 And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. 18 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him. 19 Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. 20 As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” 21 Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! 22 My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.” 23 Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. 24 And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces. 25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: “Peace be multiplied to you. 26 I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. 27 He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.” 28 So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.
II. Visions of World History (7-12)

“Daniel also receives revelation about the future, a process that provides positive reassurance that the Lord rules and reveals history in the making. Throughout this book Yahweh and Yahweh alone among all the so-called deities of Babylon is the sovereign ruler of heaven and earth, of mighty kings and lowly exiles.” – Old Testament Theology, Pg. 498

a. The Four Beasts, The Ancient of Days, and The Son of Man (7)
   i. Four Beasts Came Out of the Sea – Four kings that will reign on the earth (17)
      1. Lion w/ eagles wings (4)
      2. Bear w/ three ribs in its mouth (5)
      3. Leopard w/ four wings of a bird (6)
      4. Terrible beast w/ teeth of iron and ten horns (7-8)
         a. A world-wide kingdom like none other (23)
         b. Blatantly opposed to God’s Kingdom (25)
         c. Persecutes God’s people (21)
   ii. The Ancient of Days (God)
      1. Takes his throne (9)
      2. Physical attributes display His righteousness & judgment (9)
      3. Destroys the terrible beast (11)
      4. Saints restored and reigning (22 & 27)
   iii. The Son of Man (Christ)
      1. Comes on the clouds and stands before God (13)
      2. Kingdom is given to Christ (14)

b. The Ram and The Goat – A Vision for the Time of the End (8)
   i. Ram w/ two horns
      1. No one could be rescued from their power (4)
      2. Kings of Media & Persia (20)
   ii. Goat w/ one horn
      1. Goat tramples the ram (7)
      2. A little horn grew out of the goat and became very powerful (9)
      3. King of Greece (21)
      4. Little horn is a later kingdom causing wide destruction (24-26)

c. Seventy Weeks (9)
   i. Daniel confesses on behalf of God’s people and appeals to God’s character to bring His people back to the land (1-19)
   ii. Gabriel reveals the 70 weeks of human history – many think 7 years per week
1. Sixty-nine weeks from the start of the rebuilding of Jerusalem to the coming of the Messiah (25)
2. The sixty-nine weeks conclude with the Messiah will being cut off (26)
3. A final week of desolation (27)

d. A Great Conflict Between the Kings of the North and the South (10-11)
i. Daniel see a great way and is visited by the pre-incarnate Christ (10:16)
ii. A great struggles ensues and ends with a world dominating ruler (Chp. 11)
e. The End Comes (12)
i. A great time of trouble (1)
ii. The deliverance of God’s people (1b-3)
iii. Things are veiled until the end (4 & 9)

Takeaways from Daniel

- The major prophets have given us a glimpse into completed history that God has controlled so we have confidence to believe in that which God says is going to take place.
- Daniel reminds us that Christ is the central figure of the plan of God, and all is to His praise and glory.
- Daniel shows us that God is not interested in His name only being praised among just the Israelites, but by all nations.
- Daniel is a model for us on how we can serve a secular world well while not comprising on our walk with God.

Works Cited


Daniel contemplates the message and answers slowly, first saying that he wants no reward for his advice, and then reminding Balthasar that God had caused his father Nebuchadnezzar to eat grass as if he were a beast in the field—a humiliation for originally stealing the vessels from the Temple. Daniel then explains that Balthasar, too, will be punished since he has kept the sacred objects. MANE means his reign will end. TEKEL is the scale upon which Balthasar has been weighed and found wanting. Daniel Park used to be bullied a lot by Logan Lee. When his mother witnessed his bullying, he decided to transfer schools to escape Logan. He moved to a new house and got into a fight with Zack Lee in his old body. He cried himself to sleep, but when he woke up he saw he had a new body, which was handsome and strong. Daniel decided to go to school in his new body and work at a convenience store in his old one. He quickly gained popularity for his looks, and boys became jealous of him. He beat both Daniel 9: Humble prayer and explanation of 70 weeks. After far too many days, I spent time this morning getting back into reading Godâ€™s Word. It was a glass of ice-cold, freshly-brewed tea. How does the book of Daniel fit into the Bible and into history? Daniel was written during the Exile of Judah in Babylon. The period of the Exile however was predicted almost 800 years previously by Moses in the book of Deuteronomy. Synopsis: Daniel's new path leads him to the one who's been with him from the beginning of the journey. Notes: Thanks as always to Harry for smoothing out the rough edges. Happy anniversary to my fellow FFDAS Rogue N.I.D. agents, murder, lost treasure, and a little Danny whumping for seasoning. Part 3. DANIEL, BOOK OFFor Biblical Data see Daniel. Tweet. By: Emil G. Hirsch, Eduard Kâ¶nig. In the first six chapters Daniel is introduced in the third person, while in the others he appears as the speaker. This is explicable on the ground that the second part of the book is concerned only with the presentation of Daniel's inner experiences to the exclusion of all objective relations. Such transitions are found in other booksâ€“compare, for example, Hosea i. and iii.