

Daniel

The Steadfast One

Who was this person?

- Daniel was born into a royal family and was of noble birth (Daniel 1:3, 6).
- Daniel was known to be physically attractive, a good looking young man, with a sharp mind. He was one of the young men of Israel (Daniel 1:4).
- He was a young man when he was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B.C.
- Daniel lived at least until the third year of Cyrus—till 536 B.C. (before Christ). At that time he would have been in his mid-80's.
- Daniel was friends with three young men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who were thrown into a fiery furnace and also experienced God's protection, just like Daniel.

What is this person known for?

- Daniel was known for his righteousness (right way of living according to God's plan) as noted in Ezekiel 14:14, 20. He refused to compromise on godly standards (Daniel 1, 3 and 6).
- Daniel was known to have received God's truth by being able to interpret dreams had by the kings who ruled in his lifetime. The dreams and their interpretations are recorded in the Old Testament book by his name, Daniel.
- Daniel was known for being faithful to God's ways. When captured and brought to Babylon, he would not eat the king's food nor drink their wine.
- Daniel was known for being protected by God when thrown into a den of lions. God shut the mouths of the lions and allowed Daniel to walk out of the den without an injury, or death.
- Daniel is known for being a person of integrity. When his enemies looked to find something to fault him on, they were unable to find a thing, and used his devotion to God against him.
- Daniel was not afraid to speak the truth even in difficult situations. When he saw handwriting on a wall, he told King Belshazzar exactly what God had written even though the message was not one that the king would want to hear.

Making The Bible Come Alive



Why do you think this person has been included in God's story?



- **To remind us to live for God.** Daniel is an example to us of someone who had a personal dedication to God. His life is an example of how to live for God, even in a heathen world (corrupt society) where everyone around you is living against the ways and will of God.
- **To remind us that God has authority over kings and kingdoms.** Daniel's story and his interaction with four kings that he served during his years (Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, Cyrus) helps us see how God has sovereign authority over Gentile nations and how He puts kings in place and can remove them, all to serve His plan and purposes.
- **To remind us to keep trusting God.** The various stories in the book of Daniel are proof to us today that God is faithful to His people. He desires to protect them and keep them. Even as God was faithful to Daniel, Daniel was also faithful to His God. He was a man of prayer, praying three times a day with his window opened towards Jerusalem. He believed that some day God would bring His people back to Jerusalem.
- **To remind us that God is faithful.** The book of Daniel is both about history and prophecy. It shows us that God is able to take care of His people in spite of oppressive, godless governments. It shows that God is able to miraculously watch out for His faithful servants.
- **To remind us that we can trust the Bible regarding future events.** The book of Daniel gives us a time-line to the future, beginning at the date of Daniel's writing. Since his prophecies about previous world empires came true, we can believe that Daniel's descriptions of what is yet to come will be accurate as well.

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.

- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from this Bible character, how can I live in a way that is pleasing to God.

MORE IN GOD'S WORD

Daniel helps us see the reality of spiritual warfare (Daniel 10 and 11). Sometimes we need to realize that the devil does not want us to see our prayers answered. We need to do like Daniel and **P.U.S.H.**

—**P**ray **U**ntil **S**omething **H**appens!

As we go about our daily lives, whether at home, school, the playground, playing sports, or studying, we must always be attuned to what God is doing and what He desires from us. We must be obedient, and we must be strong, never backing down or compromising against God and how He tells us we should live, according to His Word. We must give all that we are to His work, doing all that He asks of us, with a happy heart. As we grow in God's Truth and what is real, we will also be able to discern what is false. With God's help and the strength He gives us, we will be able to stand against the enemy when we stand in the powerful name of Jesus. Even when we can't see what lies ahead, we know He is fighting for us, and will use us to do great things for Him. Ephesians 6:5-8 (The Message Version) says this:

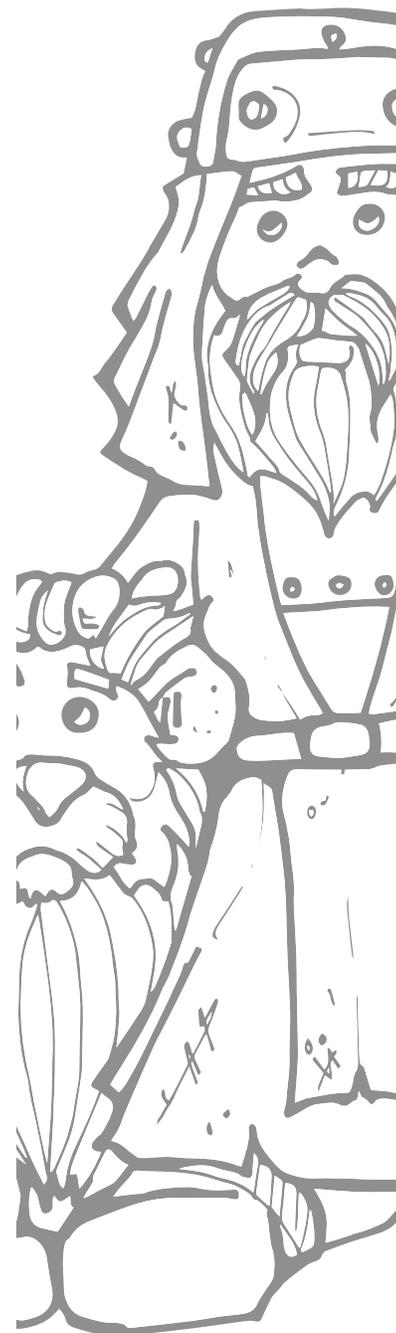
“Servants, respectfully obey your earthly masters but always with an eye to obeying the real master, Christ. Don't just do what you have to do to get by, but work heartily, as Christ's servants doing what God wants you to do. And work with a smile on your face, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, you're really serving God. Good work will get you good pay from the Master, regardless of whether you are slave or free.”

Do not think for a moment that the Devil will not try to trip you up at some points in your life. He sneaks around, just waiting for the right time when he can try and trap you. He wants to distract you in your weak moments, or when you are tired or feeling lazy, so he can steer you away from God's work. But, Ephesians 6:10-12 (The Message version) says it this way...

“God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.”

Read Ephesians 6:10-18 to find out what the six pieces of armour are that God wants us to wear every day so we can do battle against the enemy:

- Belt of truth





- Breastplate of righteousness
- Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace
- Shield of faith
- Helmet of salvation
- Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)

Daniel believed that at the end of time that there would be both a Heaven and a Hell. He believed that there will come a time of judgment for all of humanity. (Rev. 20:4) He prophesied about names being written in “the book” in Daniel 12:1. The final chapter of Daniel is very telling as to what will take place at the end of time as we know it.

- Read the following verses to understand what Daniel ends his writings with, and how those words align with scriptures elsewhere in God’s Word: Daniel 12:1-13—the final chapter.
- Read these verses in both the Old and New Testaments to find out what God’s Word says about “the Book of Life”:
 - Exodus 32:31-33
 - Psalm 69:28
 - Malachi 3:16
 - Luke 10:20
 - Revelation 3:5, 13:8; 17:8; 20:11-15; 21:27

Just as Daniel did, it is important that we have a relationship with God today, by accepting His Son, Jesus as our King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (John 3:16-17) He wants to be our Saviour. He wants to write your name in the Book of Life. He wants to prepare a place for you in Heaven so you can live with Him forever. (John 14:1-4) But, the choice is ours as to whether we choose to accept Him or not.

Will you accept Him today?

Will you dare to be a Daniel?

Will you stand strong for God and allow Him to use you to impact nations and leaders?

He may just be calling you to share His Word with government leaders and those who need to hear God’s voice?