

Daniel

Divine Sovereignty &
Human Faithfulness



Introduction

- Daniel: 'God is my judge'
- Date: 6th c. or 2nd c. B.C.?
- Setting: Babylonian/Persian royal court
- Theme: *God's Sovereignty, Human Faithfulness*
- Message: *Regardless of ruler, God is sovereign, carrying out His purposes in history, but often through His faithful people!*



Brief Outline(s)

○ Genre

- Stories: narrative of Daniel (1-6)
- Visions: future of God's people (7-12)

○ Language

- Hebrew (1:1-2:4a)
- Aramaic (2:4b-7:28)
- Hebrew (8:1-12:13)



Brief Outline(s)

Four empires and God's everlasting kingdom (2)

Trial by fire and God's deliverance (3)

Babylon's king warned, chastised, delivered (4)

Babylon's king warned, defiant, deposed (5)

Trial in the lion's den and God's deliverance (6)

Four empires and God's everlasting kingdom (7)



Divine Orchestration (1)

- Future: ‘The Lord gave Jehoiakim into his hand’ (1-7)
God gave four Jewish boys a position to make Him known
Apply: (1) prepare now! (2) suffering may prepare for future
- Firm & Favor: ‘God gave Daniel favor . . .’ (8-16)
God rewards Daniel’s resolve for purity w/ favor of foreign rulers
- Finest: ‘God gave them learning & skill . . .’ (17-21)
God endows the boys with learning far above their colleagues

*How do we see God sovereignly accomplishing
His plan through faithful human agents?*



Divine Oracle (2)

- Dilemma: ‘If you do not make known to me...’ (1-16)
King dreams, demands; sages delay; Daniel dares to volunteer
- Disclose: ‘Mystery was revealed to Daniel’ (17-30)
Daniel & friends pray, God provides, Daniel praises Him
- Dream: ‘God has made known what will be’ (31-45)
Statue of precious metals=lesser empires; stone=God’s kingdom
- Defer: ‘Truly, your God is God of gods’ (46-49)
King exalts Daniel, but he points to God, promotes his friends



How do Daniel’s words & actions illustrate the book’s two main themes?

Delivering the Obedient (3)

- Devour: ‘These men pay no attention to you’ (1-12)
King: bow or burn, Jews devoured, diff. worship highlighted
- Defy: ‘Our God is able to deliver . . . but if not’ (13-18)
King challenges, Jews obey, uphold God’s power regardless!
- Delivers: ‘Unbound, walking about, not hurt’ (19-25)
*King furious, furnace deadly, but **God delivers in the fire!***
- Decree: No other god can rescue this way (26-30)
King retrieves Jews, recognizes God’s rescue & their obedience



How do Daniel’s friends illustrate the book’s two main themes?

Demand for Obeisance (4)

- Dominion: 'What Most High has done' (1-3, 34f)
King now recognizes God's greatness & universal sovereignty!
- Dream: 'I saw a tree in the midst of the earth' (4-18)
Tree (beauty, bounty, blessing) to be axed, banished & abased!
- Denounce: 'Break off sins, do righteousness' (19-27)
Daniel alarmed, interprets (king=tree), rebuke (pride)-repent!
- Driven: 'The kingdom has departed from you' (28-33)
Pride (I/my), kingdom departed, driven away, divine lesson? (3x)



How does this chapter illustrate the book's two main themes?

Downfall w/o Obeisance (5)

- Desecrate: ‘They drank wine & praise the gods’ (1-4)
King disrespects God, drinks in vessels, delivers praise to gods
- Decipher: ‘They could not read the writing’ (5-12)
God responds, king rattled, sages can’t read, queen recalls Daniel
- Disdain: ‘You have not humbled your heart’ (13-28)
Daniel rejects gifts, remember, rebukes king, reads writing
- Demise: ‘That very night Belshazzar was killed’ (29f)
Daniel promoted, Belshazzar perished, Darius procured Babylon*



How does this chapter illustrate the book's two main themes?

Delivering the Obedient (6)

- Deceit: ‘They found no ground for complaint’ (1-9)
Daniel distinguished, colleagues devise, king denies prayer
- Defy: ‘Daniel knew document was signed’ (10-18)
Daniel rebels, colleagues report, king attempts rescue, releases
- Delivers: ‘Was your God able to deliver you?’ (19-24)
Darius distressed, Daniel delivered (in den), colleagues doomed
- Decree: ‘All people are to fear Daniel’s God’ (25-28)
King commands fear of God, recognizes His deliverance of Daniel



How does this chapter illustrate the book's two main themes?

Summary

With historical narratives from Daniel's life (ch. 1-6), the first part of this book combines the sovereignty of God over human rulers with His penchant to use faithful people to carry out His purposes.



Application

“Daniel’s world is a world of trouble. It’s a world of injustice, oppression, idolatry, danger, political corruption, war, and various other kinds of trouble, but it is not a world that is out of control. In fact, in the face of all the trouble, Daniel presents to us a world that, in every way and at every point, is under the control of One who is powerful and wise, and who holds the events of human history in the palm of His hands. Events happen according to His plan.”

Tripp, *New Morning Mercies*, 221.

