

An Introduction to the Old Testament
Class 15
Prophets 2: Daniel
2025-2026
Daniel Baker

I. Quiz

II. Your Read, Reflect, Apply in Daniel

III. Daniel 1–6: The Narratives

- A. Who wrote Daniel? Jesus says Daniel (Matt 24:15–16). The book itself says Daniel (7:2; 8:1; 9:2; 10:2). *But this doesn't mean a later editor didn't make slight changes here and there.*
- B. Daniel 1
1. *Why is Daniel in Babylon?* Leviticus 26:3, 11; 14, 27, 33
 2. How long were they to stay in Babylon? Jeremiah 25:11–12; 29:10–11
- C. Daniel 2
1. The importance of the statue is that it teaches how to interpret later prophecies.
 2. Parts of Statue
 - a. Head of “fine gold” (2:32) = Nebuchadnezzar
 - b. “Chest and arms of silver” (2:32) = Medo-Persians
 - c. “Middle and thighs of bronze” (2:32) = Greece
 - d. “Legs of iron” (2:33) & “feet partly of iron and partly of clay” (2:33) = Roman Empire
 - e. But... “A stone was cut out by no human hand...struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth” (2:35) = Christ!
- D. Daniel 3 – The Fiery Furnace
- E. Daniel 4 – Nebuchadnezzar's Journey
- F. Daniel 6 – Daniel and the Lion's Den

And then...it gets more...tricky...

IV. Daniel 7–12: The Prophecies

A. Daniel 7 and Four Beasts

1. Lion w/wings of eagle (7:4) = Nebuchadnezzar/Babylon
2. Bear (7:5) = Medo-Persia
3. Leopard w/wings of a bird and 4 heads and dominion (7:6) = Greece, especially Alexander the Great and his rapid conquests.
4. “Terrifying and dreadful” beast w/ “iron teeth and 10 horns, then 3 horns, then 1 horn = Rome with differing views on the horns.
5. 7:21 and single horn battling “the saints and overpowering them”—until 7:26 and his defeat and everlasting kingdom (7:27).

B. Daniel 7 and the Son of Man

- C. “Darius the Mede” – Not “Darius the Great” from Ezra 1–6 when Israel rebuilt the temple.

V. Read, Reflect, and Apply

A. Read – Narratives + Prophecies

1. In the prophecy portions, these are *apocalyptic* prophecies.
2. Daniel in some ways the inventor of this style.
3. Characterized by pictures, symbolic pictures that give the meaning.
4. Ezekiel and Revelation pick up on Daniel’s symbols and contain echoes of them—e.g., compare Daniel’s throne scene in Daniel 7 with John’s in Rev 4.

B. Reflect – Jesus as the Son of Man in chapter 7

- C. Apply – Trust the God revealed in Daniel, be like Daniel, understand that God controls history.

VI. J.I. Packer on Daniel

There is, perhaps, no more vivid and sustained presentation of the many-sided reality of God’s sovereignty in the whole Bible. In the face of the might and splendor of the Babylonian empire which had swallowed up Palestine and the prospect of further great world empires to follow, dwarfing Israel by every standard of human calculation, the book as a whole forms a dramatic reminder that the God of Israel is King of kings and Lord of lords, ‘that heaven rules’ (4:26), that God’s hand is on history at every point, that history, indeed, is no more than

'his story,' the unfolding of his eternal plan, and that the kingdom which will triumph in the end is God's
J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*⁵

⁵ Packer, *Knowing God* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1973), 29.