

Chapter 1 — "Introducing Daniel"

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them..." — Daniel 2:20-21

PART I: UNDERSTANDING THE CONTENT

1. Why Historical Background Matters

Why is knowing the historical context of a biblical book so essential for proper interpretation, and how does recognizing Daniel as 6th-century B.C. prophecy rather than 2nd-century B.C. history showcase God's power to reveal the future?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

2. The Great "Hinge" Chapter

Chapter 7 acts as the central "hinge" of the book, bridging both the Aramaic linguistic section and the transition from historical stories to prophetic visions. How does this unique structure tie the entire book together into a unified message?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

3. Understanding Apocalyptic Imagery

Daniel blends historical narrative, prophecy, and apocalyptic literature. Why must we approach an apocalyptic vision filled with symbolic images and cosmic scope differently than a straightforward historical narrative?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

4. Don't Miss the Forest for the Trees

We can easily get so bogged down in timeline charts and apocalyptic symbols that we miss the main point. What are the three major, overarching themes of Daniel that we must keep in front of us throughout this study?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

5. Connecting Daniel to the New Testament

Daniel is one of the three most frequently quoted Old Testament books in the New Testament. Why is grasping the book of Daniel so essential if we want to fully understand Jesus' teachings and the New Testament writers?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

PART II: APPLYING THE MATERIAL

6. Resting in God's Absolute Sovereignty

Daniel 2:20–21 declares that God changes the times and seasons, setting up kings and deposing them. How does fixing your eyes on God's sovereign control over world leaders change how you react to daily headlines and political instability?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

7. Standing Firm in a Secular Culture

Young Daniel and his friends were thrust into a pagan culture that sought to reshape their minds and strip away their identity. Where in your workplace, community, or social circle do you feel the subtle pressure to compromise your faith?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

8. Investing in the Eternal Kingdom

Earthly empires rise and fall, but God's kingdom will never be destroyed. How does knowing you belong to an eternal, unshakable kingdom change where you spend your time, energy, and resources this week?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

9. Trusting God with Your "Slice of History"

Daniel spent seventy years in Babylonian exile—a small slice of human history, but nearly his entire lifespan. How does knowing that God has deliberately placed you in your specific slice of history give you confidence today?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

10. Personal Takeaway

Looking ahead to this study of Daniel, which aspect are you most eager—or challenged—to explore (e.g., learning to stand firm, trusting God's sovereignty, or understanding biblical prophecy), and why?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS