

All In With Daniel
Daniel 3:1-30
July 22, 2018

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PURPOSE Daniel is the second shortest book of the Major Prophets

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(Lamentations is the shortest). It's perhaps the most frequently studied of the 16 Major and Minor Prophets. In New Testament prophecy, Daniel is referred to more than any other Old Testament book. Moreover, it contains more fulfilled prophecies than any other book in the Bible.

Despite decades of warnings from Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah and many other faithful prophets:

[2 Chronicles 36:16](#) But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, until there was no remedy.

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The people's apostasy and immorality brought about the total destruction of Jerusalem and the temple → a destruction God had warned His people about ever since the time of Moses.

[Deuteronomy 28:64](#) "And the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known."

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[Deuteronomy 29:28](#) and the Lord uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day.

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From the viewpoint of a human observer, it seemed the religion of the Hebrews had been completely discredited. Their God apparently was inferior in power to the mighty gods of Assyria and Babylon (this is before the Persian Empire). YAHWEH seemed unable to deliver His people from the people of Asshur, Bel and Nebo. Ethical monotheism was exposed to universal scorn as an empty fraud. Therefore, it was essential for YAHWEH - God - to display His power in such a way that he was the one true God (in contrast to the false gods of the heathen). So, he showed (at this time period within Daniel) his power in a series of miracles that vindicated Him and His Word.

Remember, God allowed/caused His people to go into captivity in 587/588 BC not because of His weakness, but because of His power and judgment upon the people. Daniel relates a series of contests between the Lord-YAWEH and the false gods of human invention and proves Himself to be superior to them all.

AUTHOR & DATE

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The book itself states Daniel as the author ([Daniel 9:2, 20; 10:2](#)). The author, Daniel, though usually writes about himself in third person, as was customary by ancient authors, used first person in the afore mentioned verses. Jesus believed Daniel was the author of this book ([Mathew 24:15](#)). Ezekiel was Daniel's contemporary (they lived at the same time) and he wrote respectfully of Daniel in:

[Ezekiel 14:14](#) even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness, declares the Lord God.

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Daniel's narrative begins with his capture as a hostage by Nebuchadnezzar in 605-604 BC and according to:

[Daniel 10:1](#) In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.

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... goes until the third year of Cyrus, in 535 BC (70 years). He doesn't finish then, though — Daniel seems to have revised and completed his memoirs during his retirement sometime between 532-530 BC.

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He would have been about 90 years old by this time, assuming his birth was 620 BC (Ezekiel's ministry only lasted 20 years - he died at 50 [last week]).

LANGUAGES Daniel is written in two different languages - Hebrew ([chapters 1, 8 - 12](#)) and Aramaic ([chapters 2 - 7](#)). The Aramaic chapters deal with matters pertaining to the entire citizenry of the Babylonian and Persian empires, whereas the other six chapters relate to Jewish concerns and God's special plans for the future of His people. This is when the Jewish people learned Aramaic and then used it for more than 1,000 years (until Arabic). Hebrew and Aramaic for 1,000+ years. (Qumran loved Daniel because it spoke so often of Messiah's coming and reign.)

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THEOLOGICAL VIEWS

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1. the absolute sovereignty of God
2. the mighty power of prayer

3. God's long-range plan for redemption

Daniel is the only book that predicts exactly when Messiah Jesus would appear and the beginning of his ministry - ([Daniel 9:25-26](#)) "THE 70 WEEKS".

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4. the grace of God

Are these four purposes for the book not a perfect complement to/for REVIVAL (ALL IN)?

Go through in my Bible from Chapter 1 and read subtitles. Read Chapter 2:46-49.

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[Daniel 3:1](#) King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

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In the dream that Daniel interpreted ([Daniel 2:31-45](#)), God warned Nebuchadnezzar that He would judge and destroy the idol-worshiping empire. Evidently Nebuchadnezzar was not paying any attention - at least to that part of the interpretation.

[Daniel 2:47](#) 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."

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Evidently it didn't mean too much to the king of kings at that time.

"image of gold" - covered with gold or gold-plated (Babylon did not have enough gold to make a solid gold statue that high).

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“60 cubits” - equals ninety feet high [90 ft.]

“6 cubits” - equals nine feet around

He sets up this “image” to be worshiped in Dura. [Map for screen here -->](#)

It was probably not a statue of him (Nebuchadnezzar) but we have no evidence that Mesopotamian rulers were ever worshiped as divine during their lifetime (Egypt did). It is far more likely the statue represented the king’s pater god - Nebo or Nabu.

[Research on Nebo or Nabu. -->](#)

This statue represented absolute submission to the king/government of Nebuchadnezzar. From the beginning of civilization, governments have competed with God. If a government can marry the state with God a god = absolute authority over people’s lives. ([Separation of church and state in the United States if time permits here.](#))

Daniel 3:2 Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

King Nebuchadnezzar assembled all local leaders and provincial leaders from every part of his domain together to demand veneration (worship) of Babylon’s patron god. Eight specific groups.



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Daniel 3:3 Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

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Same eight groups came. This was a well organized bureaucracy.

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1. satraps - in charge of larger satrapies
2. prefects - probably lieutenant governors
3. governors - leaders of smaller territories (including Judea)
4. counselors - advisers
5. treasurers - in charge of finances
6. justices - judges
7. magistrates - over-chiefs
8. officials - any government executive

Daniel 3:4-6 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."

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As soon as the orchestra played, all the foreheads in the great multitude were to touch the ground at the same moment.

Daniel 3:7 Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

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All the foreheads touched the ground except . . .

Daniel 3:8-12 8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. 9 They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! 10 You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. 11 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. 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."

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"Chaldeans" - of **verse 8** is referring to a group of Chaldean nobles - there is a serious racist undertone presented here against the Jews. These Chaldeans recite word for word the kings' edict.

"Shadrach" - Hananiah (Hebrew "grace, mercy gift of the Lord")

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"Meshach" - Mishael (Hebrew "he who is asked for")

"Abednego" - Azariah (Hebrew "God has helped")

These three have been central characters in Daniel since **Chapter 1**.

Daniel 3:13-15 13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”

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Nebuchadnezzar was so devoted to justice “he did not rest day or night” (ancient cuneiform writing). Nebuchadnezzar asks them if it's true but then allows them one more chance to hit the ground.

At the end of **verse 15**, however, Nebuchadnezzar throws down the gauntlet by saying, “And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?” (or “you shall have no gods other than me.”)

Daniel 16-17 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.

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Ask everyone to recite “my God is able to deliver me from _____” three times. Now you fill in the blank here.

Daniel 3:18 “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.”

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This is a more powerful statement than **verse 17**. Please repeat with me three times: "But if not".

Tell the story of Dunkirk WW II. —>

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"We will not serve or worship your image or your god." Talk about being "ALL N" for God! These three certainly were.

Question: Where was Daniel in all of this?

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1. He may have been absent, perhaps traveling on government business somewhere.
2. He may have been working with some of the king's cabinet.
3. He may have been sick.

Daniel 8:27 And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.

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4. Because he was the king's prime minister, his loyalty may have been assumed and he may not have been required to bow.
5. The Chaldeans may not have had the nerve to accuse Daniel of anything.

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I promise you this, Daniel didn't bow either (absent, sick, not required to, overlooked).

Daniel 3:19-23 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. 20 And he

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ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. **21** Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. **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.

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Like a much larger metal smelting furnace (like Stone Mountain Glass Smelting but much larger). . . with a small opening that got wider.

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Daniel 3:24-25 **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.”

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“like a son of the gods” - we know this person to be the very son of God, Jesus Christ. This is a direct fulfillment of:

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Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

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Daniel 3:26-30 **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,

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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.

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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.

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What happens to the "image"? On the plain of Dura there stands today, a rectilinear mound, about twenty feet high, as exact square of about forty-six feet at the base, resembling the pedestal of a colossal statue (Heslop). Evidently it was abandoned forever!!!

Romans 12:1 is a commentary on this account.

Romans 12:1-2 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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Prayer and Invitation

**Continue to tie in as much as possible to "ALL In"
Sunday Weekend August 5th and August 6th.**

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