

Daniel – 12 Chapters

Title:

Daniel- after its author and main character. Daniel means “God is judge” or possibly “God is mighty”.

Author:

Claims to be written by Daniel, the main character. Many deny that Daniel was the author and claim that it was written later. There seems to be no reason to write a book and claim it was written hundreds of years earlier by Daniel (who was virtually unknown outside of the book of Daniel). Therefore, the books claim of authorship seems to be the best explanation.

Occasion and Purpose:

Daniel chronicles the experiences and visions of Daniel and his fellow Jewish exiles during the Babylonian exile. The characters' faithfulness to God in the midst of pressure to compromise is encouragement for the readers to have similar faithfulness. The visions and stories show that the One True God is in control everything, including the nations and empires of the world.

Themes:

1. Faithfulness under pressure
2. Sovereignty
3. Humbling
4. Saving

Summary:

Tells of the life and teachings of the prophet Daniel, who was taken to Babylon as captive but rose to a position of power. Both Daniel and his friends served God in the midst of tremendous persecution without compromising. Daniel was then given visions of what would take place in world history and the end of time. Some symbolic language is hard to understand, but the point, that God rules over history, is very clear.

Organization:

Stories – chs. 1-6	The food test – ch. 1
	1:1-7 Daniel & friends are taken captive to Babylon
	1:8-15 They honor God in Babylon
	1:16-21 Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges Daniel & friends
	Nebuchadnezzar’s dream – ch. 2
	2:1-23 Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of empires
	2:24-45 Interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream
	2:46-49 Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges Daniel’s God
	Fiery furnace – ch. 3
	3:1-12 The Image of Gold
	3:13-27 The friends are rescued from the furnace
	3:28-30 Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges God
	Nebuchadnezzar’s humbling – ch. 4
	4:1-18 Nebuchadnezzar’s dream
	4:19-27 Interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream
4:28-37 Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges God	
Writing on the wall – ch. 5	
5:1-12 God writes on the wall in judgment	
5:13-28 Interpretation of the writing	
5:29-30 Belshazzar acknowledges Daniel, but not God	
The lion’s den – ch. 6	
6:1-15 Jealous leaders accuse Daniel	
6:16-24 Daniel is rescued from lions	
6:25-28 Darius acknowledges God	
Visions – chs. 7-12	The four beasts – ch. 7
	7:1-14 Daniel’s dream of four beasts
	7:15-28 Interpretation of Daniel’s dream
	Vision of the kingdoms – ch. 8
	8:1-14 Daniel’s vision of a ram & goat
	8:15-27 Interpretation of the vision
	Prayer and the vision of weeks – ch. 9
	9:1-19 Daniel’s prayer
	9:20-27 A heavenly messenger reveals God’s timing
	More historical revelation – ch. 10-11
	10:1-11:1 Daniel’s revelation through a heavenly messenger
	11:2-45 The Kings of the North and South
Trouble & gratitude, death & life – ch. 12	
12:1-4 The end	
12:5-13 Daniel’s final revelation	

Key Verses:

2:19-22, 27-28; 3:16-18, 28; 4:34-35; 6:26-27; 7:13-14; 12:2-3