

The Banner



Let us begin the new year with an instructive exercise in Biblical theology. That means learning theology in the way that the Bible presents it. We shall look at Daniel.

At first glance, the prophetic book of Daniel is intimidating because it seems like two oddly joined parts. The first half, Daniel 1-6, is comprised of six narratives from Daniel's life in exile. The chapter divisions really help.

1. Daniel as a youth
2. Daniel interprets King Nebuchadnezzar's dream
3. The idol on the plain and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
4. King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream and eats grass
5. Belshazzar's feast
6. Daniel in the lion's den

The second half, Daniel 7-12, is comprised of four apocalyptic visions.

7. The vision of the four beasts and the Son of Man
8. The vision of the ram and the goat who oppose the Prince of Princes
9. Gabriel answers Daniel's prayer about Jerusalem with the Seventy Weeks
- 10-12. Daniel comforted by the Angel of the Lord and told of a future resurrection

How does all this go together? How does one unlock the meaning of the book of Daniel?

After reading the whole book a few times, you might come back to the opening two verses of the book, Daniel 1:1-2. In these two verses we find that the key to understanding the book is already in the door.

¹In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ²And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.

What is it that the second verse tells us that the first verse does not?

In these verses we read of what the King of Babylon is doing. Nebuchadnezzar comes in with his army thinking that he is a great conqueror. He besieges Jerusalem, loots the place, takes everybody off to Babylon. Everybody thinks he's in charge, that he's a great king.

(Continued on pg. 2)

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But in verse 2 we read that actually it was the Lord who “gave the king of Judah into his hand.” Nebuchadnezzar took Jerusalem, but it was the Lord’s doing. Nebuchadnezzar was just the instrument to accomplish what God had warned His people about for a long time. So, we’re seeing a king, but behind him is **the King!** This gets us to the big idea of Daniel. You see, as you go through the book you begin to realize what you are reading about is a contest between two powers: the Kingdom of God and the kingdoms of the world, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome.

Think about how the book unfolds. In chapter 1 Daniel and his friends are taken from their homes by the king of Babylon, given new names, a new education, a new diet. But then Daniel refuses. He says to the king’s servants, “I’m not going to eat your food.” Why? Is it because he likes veggies? Does he want to lose weight? No. It is because Daniel thinks, “I have a King bigger than you. I’m going to serve (obey) Him.” And Daniel’s God delivers him.

In Chapter 2, Nebuchadnezzar has his dream and calls his magicians to interpret and they are at a loss. The king says, “Tell me what my dream means or you’ll all die.” They say, “Tell us what you dreamt.” But the king doesn’t quite trust them and so he says, “No, you tell me.” They can’t do it. They’re scared. Then the king is going to kill them all. In comes Daniel. He says, “My God knows all about dreams.” And He does! It was God who gave the king his dream.

In chapter 3 Nebuchadnezzar builds a huge statue out of gold. Everyone is forced to worship the statue. But Daniel’s friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego won’t do it. They say, “We’re not going to bow to your statue.” They serve a King bigger than Nebuchadnezzar, and they know it. So they get thrown into the fiery furnace, and their God, the King, is even bigger than that. God delivers them and their enemies get roasted.

In chapter 4 Nebuchadnezzar has a dream, Daniel interprets, and then God sends King Nebby out, insane, to eat grass like a cow. When he is finally brought to his senses, what does he say?

³⁴At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me,

and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”³⁶ At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me.³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble. Daniel 4:34-37

The great king of this world is recognizing the King of Kings.

In chapter 5 the Babylonian King Belshazzar is an idiot. He brings the goblets stolen from the Jerusalem Temple into his feast. He is using God’s stuff in the debauched worship of his own false gods. What does the King of Kings do? He writes with His hand on the wall, “You have been weighed in the balance and found wanting.” It wrecks dinner, ruins the party. Then the King of Kings brings in the enemy, they take over and King Belshazzar is finished. God was being mocked. He gets fed up. He just takes the kingdom away from that guy and gives it to the Persians. It’s all His.

In chapter 6 Darius, the king, foolishly makes a rule. People can only pray to him. Once again there is a clash of two kingdoms and Daniel, now an old man, is in the center of it. He prays to God, facing Jerusalem, three times a day. He’s not going to quit. His jealous friends, who are actually enemies, tell on him and he is sentenced to death by lion because he is still choosing to serve God. But Daniel is miraculously vindicated by the King of Kings (who even rules over lions) and all Daniel’s enemies get eaten.

Now to the first vision, chapter 7, that God gave Daniel back during the reign of Belshazzar. He sees four beasts that represent four worldly kingdoms; Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome. They seem awesome and terrifying. But then the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man show up and those kingdoms are nothing.

In chapter 8, again in Belshazzar’s reign, Daniel has another vision. Two kingdoms are battling, a ram and a goat, the Persians and the Greeks, and God’s people

are caught in the middle. But then the Prince of Princes comes, and these kingdoms are broken to pieces.

In chapter 9 Daniel, in the days of King Darius, is remembering the prophecy of Jeremiah and the promises God made. He is praying for the promised restoration of Jerusalem amidst all the spiritual battles raging in the world. God sends an angel and answers his prayer, "Yes, I'm going to do that, the King (Messiah) is coming, but it'll be a while."

In chapters 10-12, now during King Cyrus' reign, Daniel is praying and fasting. He is then told of kings in Persia and then Greece, from the north and the south, battling away, armies and navies, invasions of Egypt and Libya and Ethiopia. It looks like chaos. Then finally the King of Kings comes in and everyone who is found written in His book will be rescued and raised from the dead!

¹At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. ²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. Daniel 12:1-3

You see? In this world where the kingdoms of man are battling away, God wins. He is in absolute control and He always wins. That is the message of Daniel. The kingdoms of this world are fighting one another and fighting God's people. That is the way the world is. In fact, it often seems like the world is winning. But that is only for a moment. God reigns over all. He wins and He rescues those who love Him. †

OUR
GOD
REIGNS



ELDER

Doug Corwin
Dale Swanstrom
Jerrold Wynia

DEACON

Reid Jensen
Dan Paulson
Chris DeLay

DEACONESS

Connie Pierce
Paige German
Robin Leikvold

SECRETARY

Kate Erickson

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Morgan Fahlberg
Jerrold Wynia
Nash Wergin

TREASURER

Nancy Swanstrom

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Sarah Wergin

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Jen Gordon

TRUSTEE

Ricky Gordon
Ben Fahlberg
Ted Lewis
Jeff Pierce

CEMETERY BOARD

Pete Fahlberg
Clif Carnes
David Nelson

MISSIONS CHAIRPERSON

Connie Schmidt

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

Matthew 11:28-30



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
				1	2	3
	Jan. 1-12 Pastor in India Jan. 19-28 Pastor in Savannah, GA					
4 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	5 6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper 7p HS Girls Study	6 8a-4p CC 6:30 p Women's Study	7 6:30p Awana, AIC Youth	8 9:30a Women's Study	9 5:30-9:30p CC	10
11 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	12 6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper 7p HS Girls Study	13 8a-4p CC	14 12p Community Study 6:30p Awana, AIC Youth	15 9:30a Women's Study 7:30p Men's Dis- cipleship	16 9a Elder Board Set up for fu- neral	17 9a Missions Committee 1p Dawn Lew- ison Funeral
18 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	19 6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper 7p HS Girls Study	20 8a-4p CC 6:30p Women's Study	21 6:30p Awana, AIC Youth	22 9:30a Women's Study	23	24
25 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	26 6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper 7p HS Girls Study	27 8a-4p CC	28 6:30p Awana, AIC Youth	29 9:30a Women's Study	30	31 8-11:30a CC

Happy Birthday:

1 Payden Hoffman
1 Jade Koth
6 Eric Adam
10 Debby Engles
10 Nash Fahlberg
11 Elsie Bovill

14 Alyssa Monen
17 Jameson Snell
21 Garrett Sims
22 Mark Bovill
22 Karla Bovill
24 Brad Hyronimus
26 Zak Pramann

27 Halle Fahlberg
28 Hunter Pramann
29 Andrew Bovill
30 Bryce Rozeboom
31 Jeff Pierce
31 Jonathan Snell
31 Josiah Stake

Happy Anniversary:

25 Doug & Nancy Corwin
29 Ron & LuAnn Swanson

MINISTRY AND WORSHIP

January 4

AM | Guest Speaker, Pete Hanson
Theme | TBD
PM | No evening study

January 11

AM | Guest Speaker, Doug Adams
Theme | TBD
PM | No evening service

January 18

AM | John 13:21-38, Dedication of Officers
Theme | Judas and Peter
PM | No evening service

January 25

AM | Guest Speaker
Theme | TBD
PM | No evening study

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV

Kingdom Bloggers



MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

Date	Greeters	Nursery	Children's Church	Music/Missions	Scripture Reader
1/4	J/C Pierce	Karla Bovill Isaac Bovill	Connie Pierce Harley Koth	Open	Dan Paulson
1/11	D/M Nelson	Michelle DeLay Sydney DeLay	BJ Pramann Hunter Pramann	Open	Arlyn Abrams
1/18	A Sveeggen	Jen Gordon Lewie Gordon	Colleen Buss Elijah Stake	Matilda Lewis	Matthew Wynia
1/25	L/L Koth	Jackie Krebs C VanHofwegen	Michelle DeLay L VanHofwegen	Rylee Adam	Jerrold Wynia
2/1	M/M Wynia	Karla Bovill Wesley Krebs	BJ Pramann Sydney DeLay	Communion	Rhonda Wynia
2/8	B/B Erickson	Michelle DeLay Bethany Hoffman	Harley Koth Jack DeLay	Open	Robin Leikvold
2/15	C/M DeLay	Jen Gordon Selah Stake	Julie Saugstad Hunter Pramann	Hannah Bird	Ted Lewis
2/22	M/K Bovill	Hannah Bird Annalisa Stake	Nancy Mochel Payden Hoffman	Zech Stake	Jeremy Saugstad

January Worship Leader: Brian Fahlberg
Keyboard: Doreen Fahlberg
Ushers: Jeremy Saugstad, Allen Sveeggen, Luke Koth, Chris DeLay

February Worship Leader: John Fahlberg
Keyboard: Connie Twedt
Ushers: Mark Bovill, Matthew Wynia, Brian Erickson, Andy German

