

Daniel – A Model of Righteousness

Daniel 1:4, 8, 9, 17

1. The life of the prophet Daniel is recorded in the book that shares his name. Daniel means "God is my judge."
2. There is not much for us to know about the early years of his life, but he appears to have been of the upper class, perhaps even from a royal family. It is recorded that he was taken to Babylon as a teenager in 605 B.C.
3. He began service to the royal court and abstained from unclean food ([Daniel 1:8-16](#)).
4. In these verses we see Daniel standing true to God and His Word and keeping a clean heart and body ([Daniel 1:8](#)) and the man therefore whom God chose as a channel for His message to the Gentile nations of the world.
5. About 608 B.C., three years later, Daniel was brought before the king to interpret the king's dream. The king was pleased and made Daniel "ruler over the whole province of Babylon" and "chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon" ([Daniel 2:48](#)).
6. In [Chapter 4](#), we learn that Daniel interpreted another of Nebuchadnezzar's dreams. Daniel was called the prophet of dreams and his task was to share in the actual government of Babylon.
7. Nelson's Bible Dictionary comments: "Daniel remained in governmental service through the reigns of the kings of Babylon and into the reign of Cyrus of Persia after the Persians became the dominant world power ([Dan 1:21](#); [10:1](#)).
8. Daniel was also a person of deep piety. His book is characterized not only by prophecies of the distant future but also by a sense of wonder at the presence of God.
9. From his youth Daniel was determined to live by God's law in a distant land (see [Dan 1](#)). In moments of crisis, Daniel turned first to God in prayer before turning to the affairs of state ([Dan. 2:14-23](#)).
10. His enemies even used his regularity at prayer to trap him and turn the king against him. But the grace of God protected Daniel ([chap. 6](#)). . .
11. So the Book of Daniel is more than a treasure of prophetic literature. It also paints a beautiful picture of a man of God who lived out his commitment in very troubled times. We should never get so caught up in the

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meanings of horns and beasts that we forget the human dimension of the book – the intriguing person whose name means “My God is Judge.”

12. Daniel and Ezekiel had different responsibilities. God revealed Secrets to Daniel (2:19) while Ezekiel’s work was to proclaim God’s truth and to explain the real meaning of the miseries that had come to them. Both of these men looked far into the future. Daniel is quoted most in the book of Revelation.
13. Daniel belonged to a family of high rank, having been taken captive to Babylon at the age of sixteen during the first invasion by Nebuchadnezzar.
14. Ezekiel was taken captive eight years later during the second invasion.
15. Daniel lived to be over ninety years of age during which time he saw the fall of the Babylonian kingdom and the establishment of the Medo-Persian Empire.
16. He lived his whole life from the time of his captivity in the great and glamorous city of Babylon approximately sixty-nine years without blame and was well favored and Ezekiel describes him as a “*model of righteousness*” (Ezek. 14:14-20; 28:3). Although he was a captive, he rose to be prime minister of Babylon and always remained true to His God.