



Dare to Be a Daniel

What do we learn from the life of Daniel?

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NEVADA • SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.



1. He believed in a sovereign God.

Daniel 4:25, NIV -²⁵ ...Seven [years] will pass by for you until you [Nebuchadnezzar] acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.

As a devoted Jew, Daniel knew that there was but one true God, the Lord Jehovah, and that He ruled all things with wisdom and power. The Babylonians changed Daniel's address, his name, and his education, and they tried to change his standards, but they couldn't change his theology! He believed in a sovereign God (Holy, eternal, immutable, creating, self sufficient, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, wise, faithful, just, merciful, loving and good).

2. He had a disciplined prayer life.

Daniel 6:8–10, NLT -⁸ And now, Your Majesty, issue and sign this law so it cannot be changed, an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked."⁹ So King Darius signed the law. ¹⁰ But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.

When Daniel and his friends needed to know Nebuchadnezzar's dream and understand it, they gave themselves to prayer. When the Lord gave them the answer, they prayed further and thanked Him (Dan. 2:14–23). When Daniel's life was in danger, he went to his home and prayed, and the Lord delivered him from the lions (Dan. 6:10). When Daniel needed to know the future of his people, he prayed (Dan. 9).

3. He studied the Word of God, believed it and applied it.

Daniel 9:2, NLT -² During the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, learned from reading the word of the LORD, as revealed to Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years.

When Daniel and his friends left Jerusalem for Babylon, they carried with them some of the scrolls of the Old Testament Scriptures. We know that Daniel studied the prophecies of Jeremiah (Dan. 9:2), and we can assume that these godly young men had other portions of the Word as well. Daniel didn't study the Word to impress people; he studied it to ascertain the will of God and obey it.

4. He had an understanding of spiritual warfare.

Daniel 10:12–13, NLT -¹² Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. ¹³ But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia.

Daniel 10 is a key chapter for spiritual warfare. Right now, in the heavenly realm, there is a battle for our hearts, our homes, our minds, and our bodies. This battle is inclusive to us, our loved ones, our families, and our friends.

5. He sought on to glorify God.

Daniel 2:28, NLT -²⁸ But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed...⁴⁷ The king said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this secret."

When the king rewarded Daniel for his service, Daniel asked him to include his three friends, for they were an important part of the praying that brought the answer. When Belshazzar tried to smother Daniel with

compliments and influence him with gifts, the prophet brushed it all aside and courageously interpreted the bad news to the king (5:13–17). Throughout his long life, Daniel was a great man in the kingdom, but he used his gifts, abilities, and opportunities to honor and glorify God and minister to others.

6. He realized that he had a work to do.

Daniel 6:1–3, NLT -¹ *Darius the Mede decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces, and he appointed a high officer to rule over each province.* ² *The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the high officers and protect the king's interests.* ³ *Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire.*

Daniel didn't complain about his lot in life but tried with God's help to make the best use of it. He knew that the sovereign Lord whom he trusted had a special plan for his life, and he sought to fulfill it.

7. He was a gentleman.

Daniel 1:10–13, NLT -¹⁰ *But he responded, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has ordered that you eat this food and wine. If you become pale and thin compared to the other youths your age, I am afraid the king will have me beheaded."* ¹¹ *Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.* ¹² *"Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water," Daniel said.* ¹³ *"At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king's food. Then make your decision in light of what you see."*

Daniel exerted considerable influence during the reigns of four kings, and yet he never resorted to force, accusations, or threats. *"And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all..."* (2 Tim. 2:24, NKJV).

8. He had insight into human history.

Daniel 2:44, NLT -⁴⁴ *"During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever.*

See all of Daniel but especially chapter 2, 4, 6 and 9. Man cannot save himself—not through words, not through rule-keeping, not through the law—only God saves.

Daniel 9:26–27, TLB -²⁶ *"After this period of 434 years, the anointed One will be killed, his kingdom still unrealized . . .*

and a king will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple...²⁷ This king will make a seven-year treaty with the people, but after half that time, he will break his pledge and stop the Jews from all their sacrifices and their offerings; then, as a climax to all his terrible deeds, the Enemy shall utterly defile the sanctuary of God. But in God's time and plan, His judgment will be poured out upon this Evil One."

At the center of history is the nation of Israel. Why? Because Israel is God's chosen vehicle to bring salvation to the world, for "salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22). At the center of the Israel's history is God's covenant with Abraham (Gen. 12:1–3) as well as God's covenant with the Jews at Sinai (Ex. 20–24) and in the plains of Moab (Deut. 27–30). If Israel obeyed, God would bless them and make them a blessing to the Gentiles; if Israel disobeyed, God would discipline and use the Gentile nations to do it. Daniel had no illusions about the future. He knew what the human heart was like, and he knew what God had planned to do to rescue mankind.

9. He did not compromise his convictions.

Daniel 1:8, NASB -⁸ *But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank...*

Oh, Daniel, rooted in prayer and scripture, purposed not to compromise his standards, nor his convictions for anybody, any time. It was the courage of *Daniel in the Dining Room* that led to the faith *Daniel in the Lion's Den*.

10. He lived up to his name.

Daniel [Heb. דַּנְיֵאל (*daw-nee-yell*)] literally means, "God is my judge." If the ending is indeed clear: The Earth will be destroyed, the antichrist will be defeated, Israel will be delivered, the saints will be raised, and God's kingdom will be established—forever. If we truly will stand before God in a judgment for our lives (which we will), what sort of people ought you to be in these last days?

Dare to be a Daniel!

Dare to stand alone!

Dare to have a purpose firm!

Dare to make it known!

Dare to be a Daniel?