

UP WITH THE BIBLE

Studies through the Bible ✦ Learning the Word ✦ Applying the lessons of Truth

Scripture Setting

Fulfilled prophecies give hope for the future. From the rise and fall of Gentile powers, to the coming of Messiah, to current events believers cling to the words of the prophets. (See Daniel 2:20-22, 28-30.)

Lesson Insight

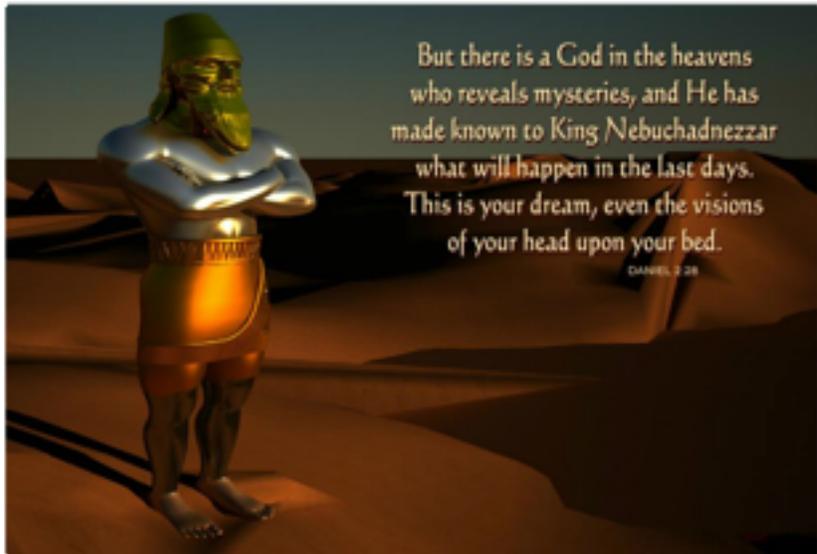
God is in control regardless of the chaos of life. God gave Daniel great insight and pagan kings confessed the power of the true God.

Take Home

Trust your life to the One who knows the future. Maintain your loyalty to Him, love His word and pray for His will. Faithfulness is always rewarded.

Looking Ahead

Prophets foretold it. Angels announced it. Messiah has come! The greatest event of history was introduced in the most unlikely settings and in unexpected places (Luke 2).



Daniel was allowed to see the forgotten dream of King Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel: Vision for the Future

Exiled from his homeland as a lad, Daniel was brought to Babylon with other young Hebrews to be trained in the ways of the Babylonians. He distinguished himself as a youth dedicated to his studies, loyal to his responsibilities, and devoted to his God. While there was temptation to blend in and conform to the expectations of his oppressors, Daniel maintained integrity to God and was used in supernatural ways in the pagan city of Babylon where the culture was vastly different than his own.

Daniel sought for another option to eating the food which had been offered to pagan gods. He refused the identity given to him in Babylon and continued to be known in history as *Daniel*, “God is my Judge!”





Outline of the Lesson

What looked like the end for Israel and Judah was God's way of bringing discipline for their rampant idolatry and their stubborn rejection of the covenant. Through the captivity and exile God protected the promised seed and preserved His plan.

- The remnant of Judah was preserved during the years of exile. Daniel was one of many Hebrews who stayed strong in faith and maintained devotion to God.
- The captors sought to change the identity of young Hebrews so they would become loyal subjects of Babylon. They changed their diet, their names, and introduced pagan worship.
- Daniel was an outstanding youth who maintained loyal devotion to the Lord God. He proved to be a valued asset to the Babylonian leaders when God revealed dreams and meanings to him.

Those who will remain faithful to truth and commit their lives to God will have the assurance of His guidance through future events.

When Nebuchadnezzar dreamed a troubling vision but he couldn't remember what it was he purposed to slay all of his wise counselors if they could not tell him what he had dreamed. None were able to divine what his dream had been, but Daniel prayed and God allowed him to see the dream and then gave him the interpretation of it. He saw the colossal image that illustrated the successive Gentile powers that would rule over the earth until Jesus returns to earth to establish His Kingdom.

Many years later, Daniel stood strong when it would have been easier to pray privately rather than risk imprisonment and the judgment of the Lion's Den. Throughout his life Daniel was tested and faced challenges. He remained faithful and committed to the Lord his God. He served under four kings and two different empires, the Babylonians and the Persians.

Our lesson from Daniel is that he remained faithful to the Lord regardless of how far from home he was, how long he lived in exile, and how many temptations he faced. God used him to provide an outline and overview of the apocalypse. God is *"the beginning and the end"* (Revelation 1:8) and remains in control of our future!

My Notes:

What is important to remember in this Lesson?

