



Elgin Evangelical Free Church - September 10, 2023

## I. The Historical Setting – 1:1

*“In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.”*

A. Helpful Information: Daniel is written according to the Babylonian calendar. Jeremiah says the “fourth year.”

B. The Babylonian assault on Judah lasted 19 years.

C. Set in the 6th Century B.C. during the disastrous reign of Jehoiakim

## II. The Hero – 1:8

*“Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.”*

A. The Person – A Prophet and a Righteous Man

B. The Picture – A Portrait of God’s Man over time.

C. The Principle – A commitment to be “undefiled” – 1:8

D. The Pointer – Daniel’s name means “God is Judge.”

### III. The Literary Style

A. This is NARRATIVE – Don’t treat it like an epistle!

B. This is HISTORICAL – Don’t treat it like fiction!

C. This is APOCALYPTIC - Treat it with sensitivity!

D. This is STRUCTURAL – Follow the Camera!

1. 1-7 are Historical Narrative and 8-14 are Prophetic

2. It is written into 2 languages, Hebrew and Aramaic

3. Chapter 7 is the HINGE of the book!

4. There is a literary device in 1-7 - CHIASM

Point: The literary devices are there to reveal the theological purpose

Chapter 2    Visions of 4 Kingdoms    Chapter 7

Chapter 3    Divine Deliverance    Chapter 6

## Chapter 4 Divine Judgement Chapter 5

The theological lesson: THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD OVER ALL HISTORY.

Remember Daniel's name . . . GOD IS JUDGE!

### IV. The Great Encouragement – 11:32

*“By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.”*

A. The person who knows their God will stand fast.

B. The person who knows their God will perform great works.

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Introduction to The Book of Daniel

Why is it hard to stand for God in our present cultural climate?

What is the benefit being able to view the world from the vantage point of Heaven? What are the negative consequences if we only view things from an earthly perspective?

Daniel's ministry provides us with a great perspective of standing firm for God over an entire lifetime (68 years). Do you think different seasons of life are harder than others to hang on to your faith? Why?

What does it mean when we say that the book of Daniel is "Apocalyptic" literature?

Why is it important that we don't read Daniel like we read the N.T. epistles?

The writer of Daniel uses many different literary devices to highlight and point us to the theological theme and purpose of the book. Talk about the significance of the following items:

- \*The book of Daniel is written in both Hebrew and Aramaic.
- \*The Chiastic Structure of chapters 2-7.
- \*Daniel's name means "God is Judge."

Daniel 11:32 is a great verse for understanding the purpose of the book. Why?

*"By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action. "*  
*Daniel 11:32*

The book of Daniel was written to give courage and hope to God's people living in a seemingly despairing time. How does the book of Daniel do this?