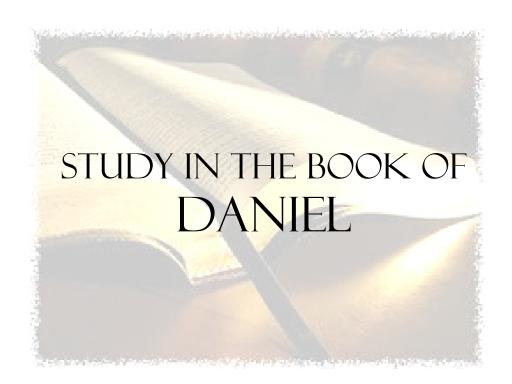


CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

DANIEL

1 <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

1.1 BACKGROUND

- **1.1.1.** Daniel was born in the reign of King Josiah who was one of the Godliest kings ever. It was during his reign that the Country experienced revival and reformation.
- **1.1.2.** Daniel was influenced by the prophet Jeremiah
- **1.1.3.** King Nebuchadnezzar, soon after destroying Jerusalem, took to Babylon the brightest of the young people of Judah (1:4), including Daniel.

1.2 Daniels character:

Only two people in the Bible are called "greatly beloved" - Daniel and Jesus.

He was:

- Blameless 6:4 Ezekiel 14:14 says that the three greatest were Moses, Daniel and Job.
- Faithful 6:4 to God; he prayed regularly, faithful to his job
- A man of moral courage
 He did not like eating the King's food because the food was
 contaminating, NOT because the food was forbidden by the Law
 of God, but because the heathen had dedicated this food to their
 gods, so if Daniel ate the food he would have been worshipping
 their gods.
- He braved the anger of an angry Nebuchadnezzar 2:1-5
- The experience in the lion's den 6:10 Daniel's enemies got together to plan for his death. They arranged for the king to make a decree forbidding prayers to any other god, except the king for 30 days.
- A man who prayed: He believed in united prayer 2:17, 18
 His prayers were full of worship and thanksgiving 2:19-23
 He had fixed time for prayer each day 6:10, 11
 He persevered in his prayers 10:2

1.3. Daniels influence

Daniel influenced:

The King Nebuchadnezzar 4:1-3, Nebuchadnezzar only called to God after his breaking time of illness.

Meshak, Shadrach and Abednego - Daniel brought them closer to God

Belshazzar

The nation

2. TOTAL DEDICATION

2.1 The flight 1:1-2

Daniel begins on a sorrowful note. For centuries the people had been drifting further and further sway from God, and repeatedly God had sent prophets to warn them to return, but they had refused.

Jeremiah had said in 25:8-11:

Therefore the Lord says this: "Because you have not listened to my words, I will summon all the peoples of the North and my servant Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon," declares the Lord, "and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations, I will completely destroy them and make them an object of horror and scorn, and an everlasting ruin. I will banish from them sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, the sound of millstones and light of the lamp. This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and the nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years".

In the year 586 BC Nebuchadnezzar came and destroyed Jerusalem. He also destroyed the Temple of God and took all the Temple treasures and put them in the temple of Bel in Babylon. He also took the majority of the people into exile for 70 years.

2.2. The privilege 1:3-4 (of 2 Kings 20:17-18 fulfillment)

Nebuchadnezzar was a wise pagan and he saw the value of training young people, especially those aged 15-20, so he brings them into his palace. He organized Ashpenaz to be in charge of the youth department. His task was to inject heathenish, Babylonian literature into the hearts and minds of selected Israelite young people. He chose a very

select group to come to the palace - they had to be without physical defect, to be handsome, show an aptitude for learning, be well informed and be quick to understand. They were taught the language and literature of Babylon. (The importance of reaching young people)

2.3. The problem 1:5

With privilege often comes responsibility. Nebuchadnezzar offers the young people his own food and drink. He knew that if he was to turn the hearts of the Hebrew boys over to the Babylonian idols, all that was necessary was for him to blot out their faithfulness to the teaching of God.

John Calvin: This food was contaminous, not because it was forbidden by the Law of God in Leviticus, but because the heathen and their feasts had consecrated this food to their gods. Therefore by eating it Daniel would be worshipping them.

Nebuchadnezzar tries to get Daniel to compromise.

James 4:4

"You adulterous people don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred towards God?

Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."

I John 2:15-17

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes and the boasting of what he has and does - comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."

2.4. Persistence 1:6-8

Nebuchadnezzar never gave up - now he comes to change their names - a further attempt to abolish any loyalty to their former faith.

Daniel Belteshazzar

God is my judge A keeper of the hidden

treasure of Bel

Hananiah Shadrach

The Gift of the Lord Inspiration of the sun

Mishael Meshach

He that is a strong God The goddess of Shaca

Azariah Abednego

The Help of the Lord Servant of the shining fire

One thing that Nebuchadnezzar forgot - you can change a person's name but you can't change their heart.

BUT

Daniel resolved 1:8

Daniel makes his decision - no compromise at all - there was to be no conforming to the world. (1 Cor. 6:19)

Daniel takes his stand graciously.

3. THE REWARD FOR CONSECRATION 1:9-21

3.1. His Protection 1:9-10

Whenever you make a stand for God. God will protect you. 1:9 "now God caused the official to show favour and sympathy for Daniel."

Daniel was protected from the people. Ultimately, it was God Himself who was the protector - the official was afraid.

3.2 The Proposition 1:11-14

Keil: The confidence of a living faith which always hopes in the presence and the help of God

- **3.2.1.** Only four men were not willing to compromise.
- **3.2.2.** We should always abide by a God-honouring way of life (listen to the conscience)
- **3.2.3.** We should be a challenge to non-believers.

3.3. The pre-eminence 1:15-21

3.3.1. Physically - they all looked healthier and better nourished

3.3.2. Mentally - God gave them knowledge and understanding

E.J. Young: The knowledge and intelligence that God gave them was that of a discerning kind so that they might know and possess the ability to accept what was true and reject what was false.

3.3.3. Spiritually - They were ten times better than all the Babylonian magicians and enchanters.

Daniel arrived in Babylon aged about 14 or 15 and stayed until he was about 90. Kings came and went, empires rose and fell, but for all those years, Daniel remained the same - no compromise. In all that dark world, he was a light for God.

4. BABYLON'S BANKRUPTCY 2:1-23

4.1. The Disturbance 2:1-3

Nebuchadnezzar woke as a very troubled and worried man; his dream that night had greatly troubled him, so much so that he could not sleep. Hopeful for a solution he calls in the following to help him:

magicians - who were fortune tellers

astrologers - who foretold the future through the stars.

sorcerers - spiritualist mediums who had contact with the dead.

The unconverted are always pitiful figures - the king has all the worldly goods he wants but he cannot sleep. The unconverted go to the wrong places for help - the help he looked for was unavailable

4.2. The Deficiency 2:4-11

All Nebuchadnezzar's hopes were pinned on these men, but at the **end** of the day, they were bankrupt - unable to tell the dream or to interpret it. We learn:

all help outside God always fails what an opportunity for God's people

4.3 The Decrees 2:12-16

Because of the failure of the magicians, astrologers and sorcerers,

Nebuchadnezzar issues this harsh decree - to put them all to death, including Daniel and company. 2:14 Daniel speaks with wisdom and tact.

4.4. The Dependence 2:17-23

Daniel returns home

- he shares it with Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah and asks for prayer
- he praises God reasons for the praise;

| - the wisdom and power of God | 2:20 |
|-------------------------------|------|
| - the sovereignty of God | 2:21 |
| - God reveals mysteries | 2:22 |
| - God is a personal God | |

5. <u>DANIEL'S INTERPRETATION OF THE DREAM</u> 2:24-49

- **5.1 The Declaration 2:24-30** Daniel now reveals his Godliness and his greatness
- **5.1.1.** Courage: Daniel goes to ask Arioch to take him to the king.
- **5.1.2.** Compassion: Don't destroy the wise men of Babylon 2:24
- **5.1.3. Zeal:** Daniel can't but God can reveal the dream 2:27
- **5.1.4. Humility:** God reveals the dream out of His mercy, not because of Daniels greatness 2:30

5.2 The Dream 2:31-35

There is a huge, dazzling statue of a man - head of gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, feet of iron and clay. Then a stone, not cut by human hands, smashed the statue.

5.2.1. Interpretation

Gold - Babylonians - 538 BC

Silver - Medes and Persians (Cyrus) - 330 BC

Brass - Greeks (Alexander) - 63 BC

Iron - Romans

The stone - Jesus Christ (Is.8:14, Is.28:16, Zech. 3:9)

The stone that the builders of the world rejected and refused to build upon - this stone grows until it reaches the size of a mountain.

5.2.2. Lessons

- **5.2.2.1.** Only believers are able to understand spiritual truths (Matt.11:25 1 Cor 2:14)
- **5.2.2.2.** The main characteristics of the world's kingdoms:
 - Human
 - Temporary
 - Conquered
- **5.2.2.3.** The glory of God's Kingdom
 - Divine
 - Eternal
 - unconquerable
- **5.3** Deference 2:46-49

Daniel was promoted to the top.

6. <u>NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S PRIDE AND FOLLY</u> 3:1-15

As we turn to chapter three we learn that Nebuchadnezzar has profited very little from the revelation God gave to him. In addition he had also seen the deficiency of his gods at work, yet there was no repentance.

6. 1. The ceremony **3:1-3**

King Nebuchadnezzar has now thrown off his fears and everything is going well again as he builds a huge image of himself. He did this because of his pride and called upon the whole nation to come and worship this image.

- The terrible curse of pride (comes before a fall)
- The attempt to always exalt man
- Establish a world religion (of New Age Movement)
- **6.2.** The command **3:4-7**
- 6.2.1. The characteristics of a false religion
- **6.2.1.1.** Always visible
- 6.2.1.2. Magnificent
- **6.2.1.3.** Seductive

- **6.2.1.4.** Impressive
- **6.2.1.5.** Well organized
- **6.2.1.6.** Dignified
- **6.2.2.** The characteristics of true worship
- **6.2.2.1.** In Spirit
- **6.2.2.2.** In Truth

6.3. The Conspiracy **3:8-12**

The music is to prepare the people for worship. Three men refused to bow down, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men were marked by their total commitment to God - no compromise

6.4. The Coercion 3:13-15

Nebuchadnezzar was extremely angry and demanded they be summoned and given a last chance,

7. THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE 3:16-30

7.1. Their Courage 3:16-18

Nebuchadnezzar gave them time to think it over. The excuses that they could have given included, why not bow just once what can only three of us do? But their confidence in God, their faith, assurance and devotion came home strongly.

7.2. The Condemnation **3:19-27**

The three men having made a tremendous statement of faith, Nebuchadnezzar changed his attitude and demanded that the furnace be seven times hotter than usual and that the men were to be bound. The furnace was now so hot that the men taking the prisoners were burnt to death. So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into the furnace. This teaches us that our God is able. The fourth person was the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew Henry

Those who suffer for Christ will always have His gracious presence with them in their sufferings, even in the fiery furnace, even in the Valley of the Shadow of Death. Here Jesus showed what is done against His people, He takes as done against Himself; and so who ever throws them into the furnace, he does in effect throw Him in as well.

Isaiah 43:1-5a

But now this is what the LORD says - He who created you created you. O! Jacob, he who formed you O! Israel

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flame will not set you ablaze. For I AM the LORD, your GOD the Holy one of Israel, your Saviour.

I give Egypt for your ransome, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honoured in my sight, and I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you;"

7.3. The Confession **3:28-30**

What a profound statement from the lips of a pagan. He doesn't just promote Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, but no one is ever allowed to speak against their God. We see the tragedy of a confession from the lips, but not from the heart and the impact of a consecrated life style.

8. <u>THOU ART THE MAN</u> 4: 1-26

INTRODUCTION

Job 33:14-17 For God does not speak - now one way, now another - though man may not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men as they slumber in their beds.

He may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, to turn man from wrong doing and keep him from pride.

So far we have seen that God has spoken to Nebuchadnezzar through the dream but Nebuchadnezzar continued with his pride and folly. God then spoke again to Nebuchadnezzar through the fiery furnace, but Nebuchadnezzar refuses to turn to God. Now in chapter 4 God speaks to Nebuchadnezzar a third time, but this time in a most humiliating manner with the purpose of bringing Nebuchadnezzar to his knees.

8.1. The Impenitence of Nebuchadnezzar 4:1-3

Nebuchadnezzar has already had two dramatic encounters with God. (the dream and the fiery furnace) But in spite of them both his heart remains hard, proud and rebellious.

He has been ruling for about 43 years during which time he has come under the ministry of Daniel, but he will not repent. We see the pride of the unconverted man. He had a form of Godliness (4:2-3 sounds tremendous) but tragically it was all on the surface.

8.2 The Incompetence of Nebuchadnezzar 4:4-7

Nebuchadnezzar has enjoyed remarkable success in all his military efforts. Syria, Phoenicia, Judea, and Egypt are conquered, resulting in Nebuchadnezzar becoming contented and prosperous - he's flourishing

Into his security, God speaks for a third time - a vision or dream that makes him afraid (Is. 57-20). Nebuchadnezzar has not learned his lesson so he calls in the "weird and wonderful guys of verses 6 and 7" (magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners) People still do this today. They were of no help whatsoever.

8.3. The Image 4:8-18.

It was a frightening dream indeed. He sees a great tree that could be seen by people right across the world. Its top touched the heavens, its leaves provided shade for everyone, and its fruit fed the world. When suddenly a messenger from Heaven says, "Cut the tree down, scatter the fruit, shake off the leaves but leave the stump". Nebuchadnezzar is finished - all that is left is the stump.

8.4. The Interpretation 4:19-26

Daniel is moved by what he sees - he has a very soft heart and a very difficult message for the king (v.19), but he explains the dream to the king, Nebuchadnezzar. Also note the courage of Daniel, he tells Nebuchadnezzar - the tree is you. He clearly tells Nebuchadnezzar what is to become of him and his kingdom. The empire is to be destroyed and Nebuchadnezzar is to become like an animal.

9. THE HUMAN BEAST 4:27-37

9.1. The Importunity 4:27

We further notice Daniel's burden and concern for the spiritual well-being of Nebuchadnezzar. He had an overwhelming love for Nebuchadnezzar and never gave up on him. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar to renounce his sin and repent before it was too late. Nebuchadnezzar was told to be kind to the oppressed - the evidence that God was doing something in his life.

9.2 The Rationality **4:28-33**

For one year Nebuchadnezzar would not listen to Daniel.

Hebrew 10:31 "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hand of the Living God."

Tragedy struck (4:31) the mighty king got a disease called Boantropy for seven horrible years. (the person thinks that he is an animal and acts like one, including eating grass).

9.3. The Intimacy **4:34-37**

The seven years led to the conversion of Nebuchadnezzar. God's chastisement of Nebuchadnezzar was severe but it worked, it brought him to God. The moment he turned to God his sanity and his kingdom were restored.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

10. WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES 5:1-31

10.1 The Sacrifice 5:1-4

10.1.1 Depravity of the human heart

10.1.2 How he lived in the midst of collapse

10.2 The Shock 5: 5-6

10.3 The Summons 5: 7-9

- **10.4** The Solution 5: 10-17
- 10.4.1. She gave solace and love
- 10.4.2. Directs him to the person who can help
- 10.4.3. LESSONS See how close he lived to God
 - a) Wonderful knowledge
 - b) Wonderful heart
 - c) Zealous for God's glory
 - d) No praises of men
- 10.5 Sermon 5: 18-25
- 10.5.1. Did not speak as he did to Nebuchadnezzar
- 10.5.2. Reminded him of the failure of Nebuchadnezzar
- 10.5.3. Applied personally
- **10.6** Significance 5: 26-31

11. THE LIONS DEN 6:1-28

The great Babylonian Empire of Nebuchadnezzar has now collapsed. This is in fulfillment of the dream - the silver replaces the gold.

538 BC Darius is now the King, but God is the director of International Affairs

11.1 The advancement of Daniel 6:1-3

Although a man of tremendous resources and ability, Darius was only one man, so he appointed 120 satraps to administer justice and collect revenue. Over the satraps were three administrators. Daniel was not only a great man, but also a good man, having integrity, diligence and being trustworthy in everything. Darius a pagan king, wanted to put Daniel in charge of everything.

11.2. Daniel's Adversaries 6:4-9

Daniel is living the life of honesty, Godliness and integrity. Sadly he was to face tremendous opposition because of jealousy. So his opposition looked for means by which to destroy him.

Proverbs 27:4 Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who

can stand before jealousy?

<u>1 Peter 2:1-2</u> Therefore rid yourselves of all malice and all

deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander of every kind. Like new born babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in

your salvation

The opposition looked at Daniel's conduct to see if they could find an instance of neglect, a hasty word spoken or necessary business overlooked. But they could find nothing. 6:4

They looked at his religion. Their jealousy now drove them to lie to the king and to enforce a law that would lead to Daniel's death. 6:5-6

11.3 Daniel's Attitude 6:10

Daniel's house was always a house of prayer. Daniel prays three times a day. His position or attitude, - he was on his knees showing humility, reverence and adoration of God. The windows were open because Daniel was unashamed of his walk with God

11.4 The Accusation **6:11-13**

The opponents saw Daniel praying and asking for help and this led to them going to the king and accusing Daniel of treason

11.5 The Anxiety 6:14-20

King Darius had now heard what had happened and was greatly distressed, but was unable to do anything about it. Daniel was thrown into the lion's den and a large stone was placed over the opening Early next morning the king goes back full of anguish.

11.6. The Assurance 6:21-23

God is able.

11.7. The Announcement **6:24-28**

Daniel is exalted and his opponents destroyed

12 THE THRONE IN HEAVEN 7 and 8

The book of Daniel divides itself into two sections. Chapters 1 to 6 the historical part, and chapters 7 to 12 the prophetic. Chapter 7 is important in times of political unrest and turmoil to remind us that God is in control.

12.1 Daniel's vision of the World 7:1-8

12.1.1. In the circumstances of this vision we are taken back to the time when Daniel had just interpreted the dream of Nebuchadnezzar "in the first year of Belshazzar" (7:1). Daniel was told to write down the contents of the dream, not only for his own instruction but also for our warning.

12.1.2. The Vision Itself.

Daniel observed four winds churning up the great sea - a tremendous political strife - the sea represents humanity and the turmoil symbolizes the uprisings, wars, and bloodshed. Daniel saw four beasts coming out of the great sea. They were ravenous, oppressive and ferocious.

- 7:4 The first beast, a lion, speaks of the Babylonian Empire. The wings were torn off and the beast was given the heart of a man. This is what happened to Nebuchadnezzar.
- 7:5 The second beast, a bear, symbolizes the Empire of the Medes and the Persians.
- 7:6 The third beast, a leopard, speaks of the Greeks under Alexander the Great. The leopard had four heads the four generals who took over from Alexander the Great Ptolemy, Seluchia, Cassanda and Lyssimachus.
- 7:7-8 The fourth beast, formidable, powerful, symbolizes the Roman Empire. At the close of this period there was to be a kingdom symbolized by the little horn. This man was to lead a great falling away of people a picture of the Anti-Christ

12.2. The Throne of Heaven **7:9-14**

12.2.1. The One on the Throne (7:9)

The Lord is sitting on the throne of the universe.

12.2.2. The Marks of this Throne

Sovereignty - God is in total control Judgement 7:10

It is the Throne of Grace 7:13-14

12.3. The Second Vision 8:1-27

12.3.1 The Vision 8:1-14

The ram, 8:3 represents the Medes and the Persians. The butting of the ram, 8:4 symbolizes the rapid conquests. The he-goat, 8:5 symbolizes Greece (cf v.21). The great horn being broken, 8:8, speaks of the death of Alexander the Great and the four replacement horns of the four generals who established four empires; Macedonia, Thrace, Syria and Egypt. The little horn, 8:9, grows into a great power - the reign of Antiochus 171 - 165 BC.

12.3.2. The Interpretation 8:15-27

As Daniel was seeking to understand this vision, an angel appeared to him, 8:19, and spoke of the appointed time. This does not only speak of the end of the world, but also of the end of the affliction of God's people under Antiochus. God would bring an end to the power of the tyrant

13 DANIEL IN PRAYER 9:1-27

13.1 Introduction 9:1-2

In these verses we read that we are in the first year of Darius the Mede. But more than that we learn of Daniel coming to the Scriptures, 9:2. Daniel was a man of the Book. As Daniel reads the Word, especially in Jeremiah, he is reminded that the Exile was to last seventy years.

13.2 The Effect 9:3

An intensity in prayer, "I turned to the Lord", involves a fixing of thoughts on God. Daniel's firmness of faith shows us the fervour of his affections. Note his posture in prayer - petition, fasting, sackcloth, and ashes all outward signs of intense humiliation and penitence,

13.3 The Example 9:4-23.

13.3.1. His Humble Address to God. 9:4

Daniel calls Him <u>my</u> God - Daniel was in a personal relationship with God. He is a great and awesome God - a God we must learn to fear. He is a God we can trust.

13.3.2. Penitent Confession 9:5-6

We have sinned - Daniel associates himself with the people. Daniel describes their sin - done wrong, been wicked, rebelled - and then confesses this sin to God.

The reasons for this sin - the people had turned away from the Commandments and the Law and did not listen to God's prophets and servants.

13.3.3. Daniel Acknowledges the Righteousness of God. 9:7-8

Daniel justifies God in every way and admits that the blame lies in themselves. (the need to accept responsibility for what we do and say).

13.3.4. Daniel Appeals to the Mercy of God 9:9-10

Daniel not only acknowledges his sin but turns to God, who is a God of mercy and forgiveness of sin. Eph.2:4

13.3.5. Daniel's Pathetic Complaint 9:11-15

God's people are despised 9:16. God's Holy Place is desolate.

13.3.6. Daniel's Special Request 9:16-19

Daniel appeals to God to turn away His wrath and to shine His face on His Sanctuary.

13.3.7. Encouragement 9:20-23

While Daniel was still praying the answer came swiftly, Gabriel came to Daniel and told him of the Messiah. (Luke 1:9 Gabriel came to Zechariah)

13.4. Daniel is Told of the End Times 9:24-27

When Daniel is told of the seventy weeks the word "weeks" means a period of time without specific length. These seventy weeks have been determined for the express purpose of bringing about six results:

Negative - to finish the transgression (to put a stop to it)

- to put an end to sin.
- to atone for wickedness

Positive - to bring in everlasting righteousness

- to seal up vision and prophecy

to anoint the most holy

It is possible that the seven sevens stand for the period between the first return under Zerubabbel and the completion of the work under Nehemiah The sixty two sevens would refer to the time from Nehemiah to the coming of Christ. (remembering that the sevens are symbolic numbers) The seventeenth seven refers to the earthly life of Christ.

14. THE MAN WHO WAS GREATLY BELOVED 10:1-21

14.1. Context 10:1

Timing - the third year of Cyrus. Two years previously many Jews had returned to Judea under the leadership of Zerubabbel. Daniel is now in his nineties and has remained behind to serve those left in Babylon

14.2. His Position 10:2-3

We hear again of Daniel in a time of mourning and fasting because of the slothfulness of the Jews.

14.3. His Vision 10:4-9

E.J. Young The description seems to indicate that the person here presented in none other than the LORD Himself. The revelation is therefore a Theophany (a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus).

14.4. The Choice Title Given to Daniel. 10:10-11

Daniel is now called "highly esteemed", 10:11 (AV - man greatly beloved)

The evidence why this was true:

- He had a piety from his earliest years.
- He never conformed to the world
- He was a man of courageous trust in God (in interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the writing on the wall at Belshazzar's feast).

- He was firm under trial (lion's den)
- He was a man of continuous devotion from his early teens into his nineties.

14.5. His Common Infirmity **10:12-13**

The angel came to Daniel after the great commendation and saw that he was full of fear. The Word of God to him was simply, "fear not". Some of the reasons that Daniel may have been afraid of include:

- **14.5.1.** Daniels vision of God and a sense of his own unworthiness 10:8-10
- **14.5.2.** Daniel had seen a vision of the future and knew what lay before him.

Tyndale Commentary: Daniel is encouraged and prepared to hear the message which he is now going to be told about the latter days.

- 14.6. The Consolation. 10:14-21
- **14.6.1.** "Peace" Daniel is given tremendous assurance.
- **14.6.2.** "Be strong" three times Daniel is assured by the LORD that Persia is going to be defeated. The prince of Greece will come 10:20 all under the sovereignty of God.

5. KNOWING GOD 11:1-32

15.1. Introduction

J.Packer: We are cruel to ourselves if we try to live in this world without knowing about the God whose world it is and who runs it. The world becomes a strange, sad, painful place and life in it is a disappointing and unpleasant business. Disregard the study of God and you will sentence yourself to stumble and to blunder through life with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounded you. In this way you will waste away your life and loose your soul.

15.2. Background 11.1-20

15.2.1. Daniel is given a revelation of the future again, 11.2. The three kings of Persia were Cambyses, Darius and Smerdis and the fourth one spoken of is Xerxes. In 11:3-4, the mighty king is Alexander the Great, who at the age of 32 had the world at his feet. His generals divided up the gains among themselves. For a time Aridaeus looked after everything, but soon the kingdom split into four kingdoms:

Ptolemy - Egypt Seleuchis - Syria Cassandra - Macedonia

Lyssimachus

The king of the south 11:5, Antiochus Epiphanes

15.2.2. 11:21 -12:3

Daniel is given a prophecy of the times of Antiochus Epiphanes. In 11:21 he is called a "contemptible person" and so is not given any Royal title. By means of cunning and flattery he won over to his side the kings of Pergamos and Syria. He attacked Palestine and erected a pagan altar on top of the Altar of Burnt Offering, 11:31 (For more information read the Book of the Macabees in the Apocrypha.) In the midst of this depressing picture given to Daniel the message comes clearly, "but the people who know their God will firmly resist Him". (11:32)

15.2.2.1 This is a Special Knowledge

It is a saving knowledge because it brings us into a personal relationship with God.

It is a satisfying knowledge that satisfies our deepest longing. It is a sanctifying knowledge that makes us more like God

15.2.2.2. The Influence of this Knowledge

We are to be strong
We will do exploits for God
We will teach others about God

15.2.2.3. How to get this knowledge

Only through the Word of God Use the aids God has given us. The need to be much in prayer

16 THE TIME OF THE END. 12:1-13 (Conclusion to Daniel)

As we come to the final chapter of Daniel we find four things that God teaches Daniel about the end times.

16.1 Tribulation 12:1

The book of Daniel is a book of good news. It promises victory to the LORD'S people, but sometimes we go through dark, bleak periods. Daniel prophesies that there is going to be a time of great distress. This could be Antiochus Epiphanes (2 Macabees), the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD (Josephus p 578), or the time of the Anti Christ (Matt 24:21-22, Rev 7:14). The days are going to be dark BUT God's people will be protected.

16.2 Time of Triumph 12:2

Here again we are given a glimpse of the glory of the believers. Daniel looks beyond the grave to the resurrection, Jn 5:28-29, both the converted and the unconverted rise, the converted to life and the unconverted to hell.

16.3 The Teachers 12:3-4

Daniel again shows how the lives of true believers will

- Shine like the brightness of the sun
- Lead many to righteousness (life style evangelism)

16.4 The Terminus (The End) **12:4-13**

"BUT you Daniel"

Daniel is told to close up and seal the book to preserve it to the end. Daniel is told that he must still go on till the end, - live a long life Daniel is given the assurance of the glory to come.