

21	JOURNEY: Daniel		
Key Word	Key Passages	Key Themes	Key People
"Faithfulness"	<p>"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." (Daniel 3:17-18)</p> <p>"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will no pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13-14)</p>	<p>God's sovereignty God's faithfulness Faithfulness of God's people End times</p>	<p>Daniel (Belteshazzar) Hananiah (Shadrach) Mishael (Meshach) Azariah (Abednego) Nebuchadnezzar Cyrus Darius</p>

1. Historical Background
 - a. Time line: 6th Century B.C.
 - 605 B.C.: First Babylonian deportation (*Daniel et. al.*)
 - 539 B.C.: Babylon fell to Medo-Persian empire
 - Daniel was still alive and ministering at this time
 - b. Date of Writing: approximately 535 B.C.
 - c. Kings Daniel served
 - Nebuchadnezzar – Babylonia – chapters 1-4
 - Belshazzar – Babylonia – chapters 5, 7,8
 - Darius – Medo-Persia – chapters 6, 9
 - Cyrus – Medo-Persia – chapters 10-12
2. Section One: the Events of Daniel's life
 - a. Chapter 1: The king's court
 - b. Chapter 2: Nebuchadnezzar's dream
 - c. Chapter 3: The image of gold and the fiery furnace
 - d. Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar's second dream (tree)
 - e. Chapter 5: Writing on the wall (Belshazzar)
 - f. Chapter 6: The lion's den
3. Representative Passage: chapter 3
 - a. A 90-foot statue (Nabu, Nebuchadnezzar's patron god)
 - b. At the sound of music, all bow
 - c. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refuse to bow
 - d. Thrown into fiery furnace
 - e. **Key passage:** Daniel 3:16-18 (above)
4. Compare similar story: chapter 6
 - a. Prayer order
 - b. Daniel protected

5. **Life Application:**

- Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah trusted God in the face of drastic consequences for their faithfulness.
- **Discuss:** What consequences do we face for being faithful to Christ today?
- **Discuss:** How do we develop that kind of faithfulness?

6. Section Two: Daniel's visions

- Chapter 7: Four Beasts
- Chapter 8: The Ram and the Goat
- Chapter 9: Daniel's prayer
- Chapter 10: Daniel's vision of a man
- Chapter 11: The Kings of the South and the North
- Chapter 12: The End Times

7. Representative Passage: Chapter 7

- Four beasts: lion, bear, leopard, a terrifying beast
- Four kingdoms: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome
- Compare chapter 2: Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a large statue
 - head of gold
 - chest and arms of silver
 - belly and thighs of bronze
 - legs of iron, feet of clay and iron mixed

Daniel's Empire Visions				
Chapter 2	Chapter 7	Chapter 8	Empire	Dates
Head of Gold	Lion		Babylon	606-539 B.C.
Chest and Arms of Silver	Bear	Ram	Medo-Persia	539 – 331 B.C.
Belly and Thighs of Bronze	Leopard	He-Goat	Greece	331 – 146 B.C.
Legs of Iron, Feet of Clay/Iron	"Terrifying" Beast		Rome	146 B.C. – 476 A.D.

d. **Key Passage:** Daniel 7:13-14

8. **Life Application**

- God is the Lord of all history. Daniel experienced a long-term vision that was beyond his ability to understand. God encouraged him to trust His faithfulness even though he did not fully understand the visions.
- **Discuss:** How does a long-term faith perspective influence our daily lives?
- **Or:** How does knowing that God is in control of history help you cope with the current events of your life?