

THE BOOK OF Daniel

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

CREATED BY STEVE CASE

Introduction to the Book of Daniel

Daniel and Revelation stand out as highly symbolic books in the Bible. As sincere Bible readers seek to understand these, they tend to read it from one of the four following perspectives:

PAST: Daniel wrote in the past for his time. It has historical value but has little to offer readers today beyond that. The majority of Bible scholars take this perspective, and most of them view Daniel as literature, not necessarily inspired or supernatural. They don't believe Daniel (or God) could predict the future, so the book must have been written sometime in the second century BC/BCE, describing the past, not during the time of Babylon or Medo-Persia and predicting the future.

FUTURE: Daniel wrote in the sixth century BC. While most of what he wrote has already taken place, the “70 Weeks” in chapter nine, specifically the last week of the prophecy, is “cut off” and takes place at the end of the world. This interpretation remains popular among Evangelicals and suggests a variety of possibilities for the last seven years of Earth's history—pretty sensational!

HISTORY: Daniel wrote in the sixth century BC. God gave him a look into the future regarding a great conflict between the forces of good/God and evil/Satan. This gets played out repeatedly through people and kingdoms on earth, but it ends with God's kingdom replacing all other kingdoms and filling the earth. Daniel's visions in chapters 2, 7, 8, 9, and 10-11 cover the same time period—from Daniel's day until God's kingdom fills the earth—each with additional details. The other chapters in Daniel record stories that illustrate how God's people are to live until God's kingdom fully arrives.

SPIRITUAL: Rather than focusing on time, this perspective looks for personal meaning while reading the book of Daniel. The dates don't matter as much as the stories as we live a life of various challenges to our faith today.

For these **RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDIES**, we believe God supernaturally inspired the Bible writers, including Daniel, with messages they wrote in their own way, in their own day. They had meaning at that time. But, as inspired Scriptures, they have meaning for us today as well. The same Holy Spirit who inspired those writers years ago remains vital for our understanding of the message God has for us to live today.

The Winner Is . . .

OPENING QUESTION

How do you respond when you win? What about when you lose?

READ Daniel 1:1-21.

1. Why did Nebuchadnezzar defeat God's people in Jerusalem?

- A. Nebuchadnezzar and his army were more powerful.
- B. God's people repeatedly broke their covenant with God.
- C. God's people were weak from the siege of Jerusalem.
- D. God handed his people over to Nebuchadnezzar.
- E. This came as a total surprise.
- F. He wanted to recruit and train the best young people into his system.
- G. Nebuchadnezzar wanted to plunder Solomon's amazing temple.
- H. He didn't really completely defeat them until later.
- I. Other.

2. Why did Nebuchadnezzar take royals and nobles back to Babylon?

- A. This further weakened the leadership in Jerusalem.
- B. This further weakened the intelligence in Jerusalem.
- C. Training young people has more promise than training adults.
- D. Training young people has more longevity than training adults.
- E. This was Nebuchadnezzar's form of youth ministry.
- F. He intended to brainwash them and then return them to Jerusalem.
- G. He wanted to prepare a place for future captives from Jerusalem.
- H. Nebuchadnezzar had good fighters, but he needed better thinkers.
- I. Other.

3. What training did the Hebrew captives receive?

- A. Physical fitness.
- B. Language(s) of Babylon.
- C. Pagan philosophy.
- D. Magic and astrology.
- E. Hebrew history.
- F. Common sense.
- G. Food fit for the king.
- H. Proper worship styles.
- I. Other.

4. Why did Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah get renamed?

- A. The Babylonians had a hard time pronouncing Hebrew names.
- B. Naming a person demonstrates dominion over that person.
- C. This would give the royals and nobles in captivity a new identity.
- D. It honored the gods of Babylon.
- E. The Babylonian names are corrupted intentionally in the book.
- F. They had never liked the names their parents originally gave them.
- G. Their Hebrew names honored Yahweh—the God of the Hebrews.
- H. Other.

5. What was the food test all about?

- A. Following proper protocol.
- B. One's orientation plays out in daily practices, including eating.
- C. Vegetarianism.
- D. Abstinence from alcohol.
- E. Eating from the king's table meant allying one's self with the king.
- F. The king's food had been offered to idols.
- G. The extent to which the Hebrew captives might resist their Babylonian conquerors.
- H. Other.

6. Why did the four Hebrews do so much better than everyone else?

- A. They were lucky.
- B. They were studious.
- C. They were self-disciplined.
- D. They were blessed.
- E. They were already better from the start.
- F. They persistently resisted the Babylonian ways.
- G. They persistently renewed their commitment to Yahweh.
- H. Other.

7. When have you seemed to be going backward instead of forward?

8. Who's in charge of your life? Your country? Your world? How do you know?

I Had A Dream!

OPENING QUESTION

How often do you have dreams? How often do you forget your dreams?

READ Daniel 2:1-49.

1. Why was Nebuchadnezzar so motivated about his forgotten dream?

- A. He was fed up about forgetting his dreams.
- B. His mental illness provoked rash statements and actions.
- C. Babylonians believed forgetting a dream meant the gods were angry.
- D. He wanted to thin out his large group of “wise men.”
- E. This would test the recent star Hebrew graduates.
- F. God impressed him that this dream really mattered.
- G. Dreams were how the gods communicated.
- H. He feared this was the onset of dementia for him.
- I. Other.

2. Why couldn't the wise men tell Nebuchadnezzar his dream?

- A. The king's demand was totally unreasonable.
- B. There was no way they could come up with the king's dream.
- C. They could invent an interpretation, but not the dream.
- D. They couldn't access the gods who might know.
- E. The wise men were having a bad day.
- F. God was setting up the wise men.
- G. God was setting up Daniel.
- H. God was setting up Nebuchadnezzar.
- I. Other.

3. How did Daniel discover Nebuchadnezzar's dream?

- A. Arioch came to kill Daniel.
- B. Daniel somehow bought time with Arioch and then the king.
- C. Daniel had the same dream as Nebuchadnezzar.
- D. It was just a coincidence.
- E. Daniel recruited his three buddies for a prayer meeting.
- F. He prayed like he had never prayed before.
- G. God revealed it to Daniel.
- H. Daniel had a very creative mind.
- I. Other.

4. What did Daniel say in the first prayer recorded in the book (vs 20-23)?

- A. Please bless the missionaries across the seas.
- B. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
- C. I can hardly wait to share this with the king.
- D. God, you are awesome! Praise God!
- E. Thank you!
- F. God, you rule—yours is the kingdom, power, and glory forever, amen.
- G. You oversee the whole world.
- H. You're involved in my individual life.
- I. Other.

5. What was THE MAIN POINT of this dream?

- A. Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon were the head of gold.
- B. God is over all kingdoms, powers, and people.
- C. God knows the future.
- D. No kingdom lasts forever.
- E. The world's wise men don't access God.
- F. God reveals himself.
- G. God's kingdom isn't here, but it's coming.
- H. God's kingdom will never end.
- I. Other.

6. How did Nebuchadnezzar respond after Daniel's revelation to him?

- A. Not bad, kid.
- B. Let's see if you can do it again.
- C. You get to live; all the other wise men must die.
- D. The mighty king bowed in submission to the exile—Daniel.
- E. Nebuchadnezzar worshiped Daniel's God.
- F. Promotions for Daniel and his three buddies.
- G. Tell me your secret—what makes you so wise?
- H. Other.

7. What amazes you about the story in Daniel 2?

8. What are God's people supposed to do while waiting for God's kingdom to come?

Hot Stuff

OPENING QUESTION

What's a building or structure that has impressed you?

READ Daniel 3:1-30.

1. Why did Nebuchadnezzar make a giant golden statue?

- A. He was always building stuff.
- B. God told him to do this.
- C. It came in direct contradiction to the dream God had given him.
- D. The king's ego led him to require allegiance and worship from people.
- E. He desired that Babylon be listed as one of the seven wonders of the world.
- F. The king's wise men pushed for a change from Daniel's narrative.
- G. He wanted a loyalty test for all the leaders in his land.
- H. Gold remained his favorite color—his identifying mark.
- I. Other.

2. Where was the Plain of Dura?

- A. Someplace in Babylon.
- B. Inside the city gates.
- C. The word "Dura" means "wall."
- D. Outside the city gates.
- E. The new development outside the old wall and inside the new wall.
- F. Near Nebuchadnezzar's summer palace.
- G. Nobody knows.
- H. A construction zone with huge brick kilns.
- I. Other.

3. Why would you bow down to the image when commanded to do so?

- A. I'm obedient.
- B. To save my life.
- C. Everybody's doing it.
- D. It doesn't mean that much; just go through the motions.
- E. I'd never get anywhere by fighting this or making it a big deal.
- F. Daniel, my moral compass and influence, wasn't there.
- G. Nebuchadnezzar and his golden statue were very impressive.
- H. When in Babylon, do as the Babylonians.
- I. Other.

4. Why wouldn't you bow down to the image when commanded to do so?

- A. I would be disobeying God.
- B. To save my eternal life.
- C. Everybody was bowing down to it.
- D. My God will save me.
- E. My God could save me.
- F. I have two buddies standing with me.
- G. Consider what God has already done for us in Babylonian captivity.
- H. Other.

5. What should Nebuchadnezzar have done differently?

- A. Not lose his temper so quickly and so violently.
- B. Get input from Daniel.
- C. Refer the problem to a committee.
- D. "Required worship" is a contradiction of terms.
- E. Ask the three Hebrews to share their wisdom with him.
- F. Don't attack Yahweh's followers by making the furnace "7 times hotter"—God's number.
- G. Repent.
- H. Other.

6. What happened when the three Hebrews got thrown into the furnace?

- A. Those who threw them in died from the flames and intense heat.
- B. The fire and heat consumed the three Hebrews instantly.
- C. The three Hebrews were freed from what bound them.
- D. They walked around in the fire without being harmed.
- E. God became more visible to others at that time and place.
- F. The crazy king had a change of mind and heart.
- G. Many of those present converted to the God of the Hebrews.
- H. The three Hebrews survived, but were demoted.
- I. Other.

7. In a place hostile to your God, are you more like Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, or like the other Hebrew captives who blended in with their new cultural reality?

8. What are examples of giant idols you face today? How do you not bow down?

How Great Thou Art

OPENING QUESTION

What's the biggest tree you've seen? How did you respond to seeing it?

READ Daniel 4:1-37.

1. What was Nebuchadnezzar's message to everyone (vs 1-3)?

- A. I am great.
- B. You are great.
- C. The God of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is great.
- D. The Most High God is great.
- E. Let me tell you about the God I've come to know and worship.
- F. Long live the king.
- G. I've been humbled.
- H. God's kingdom lasts forever.
- I. Other.

2. Why do Babylon's wise men seem so unwise?

- A. They really weren't that wise.
- B. Daniel was ten times smarter than they were.
- C. The king kept putting them in very difficult situations.
- D. Nobody would ever think Nebuchadnezzar could be so humiliated.
- E. Nobody would ever tell Nebuchadnezzar this would happen to him.
- F. God darkened their minds.
- G. They continued to have prejudice against Daniel.
- H. They refused to humbly bow before Daniel's God.
- I. Other..

3. What did God reveal in this dream to Nebuchadnezzar?

- A. Nebuchadnezzar was a great king—a giant tree reaching to heaven.
- B. Reaching to heaven brings to mind the Tower of Babel.
- C. A tree for the whole earth brings to mind the Tree of Life in Eden.
- D. Yahweh has dominion over Nebuchadnezzar.
- E. This great king is going down.
- F. Daniel would be a better king than Nebuchadnezzar.
- G. Megalomaniacs are beasts.
- H. God is love.
- I. Other.

4. What did Daniel's interpretation reveal to Nebuchadnezzar?

- A. Tremendous tact and concern about a very negative interpretation.
- B. My God is going to humble you.
- C. Your wise men are clueless—get new ones.
- D. Prepare now for a kingly successor.
- E. Stop sinning; do what is right.
- F. Maybe this will happen, maybe it won't.
- G. You will become demon-possessed or get lycanthropy (wolf-man).
- H. Other.

5. Why did Nebuchadnezzar become an animal?

- A. He already was one.
- B. He couldn't help himself.
- C. The bigger they are, the harder they fall.
- D. After 12 months, it's easy to forget a warning.
- E. He considered himself the greatest person in the world.
- F. Pride goes before a fall.
- G. God fulfilled his prophetic warning that went unheeded.
- H. Other.

6. What is your MAIN takeaway from this story in *Daniel 4*?

- A. Nebuchadnezzar is awesome.
- B. Daniel is awesome.
- C. The God of heaven is awesome.
- D. Babylon's wise men are useless.
- E. Pride is a problem.
- F. God humbles people.
- G. God will do whatever it takes to reach you.
- H. Submitting to God matters a lot.
- I. Other.

7. When is pride a problem for you?

8. What actions do you take to submit to God? What actions do you take to praise God?

Writing and Righting

OPENING QUESTION

When have you read something that made no sense to you?

READ Daniel 5:1-31.

1. Why did Belshazzar throw a party like this?

- A. He was a party animal.
- B. The Medo-Persian advance led him to have one last fling.
- C. Coed instead of the usual gender separation (*Esther 1:9,11*).
- D. This marked the 10-year celebration of his reign.
- E. A coronation ceremony for Belshazzar.
- F. In defiance of the Jewish Day of Atonement five days earlier.
- G. He misread Jeremiah's prophecy of the Israelite return to Judah.
- H. Praising gods of the metals from Nebuchadnezzar's dream (*Dan 2*).
- I. Other.

2. What would be your reaction to seeing a hand that's writing on the wall?

- A. Cool—I wonder how you did that magic trick.
- B. I've had too much to drink.
- C. This would freak me out.
- D. I would wonder what these Aramaic words mean.
- E. I'd know what this means.
- F. I would start dancing with the king.
- G. This would spark my repentance.
- H. I'd figure I was hallucinating.
- I. Other.

3. What's the difference between Belteshazzar/Daniel and Belshazzar?

- A. They actually have the same name: O Bel, protect the king!
- B. Both were rulers in Babylon.
- C. One was a captive while the other was a king.
- D. The God/god(s) they served.
- E. Whether or not they would survive that night.
- F. How they related to Nebuchadnezzar's Most High God (*4:34, 37*).
- G. Their ability to read and understand the writing on the wall.
- H. To defile (*1:8*) or not to defile (*5:23*).
- I. Other.

4. What happened for the king to get the message written on the wall?

- A. All you need are the king's wise men.
- B. Being drunk makes it hard to have optimal brain function.
- C. You have to be able to read Aramaic writing.
- D. You have to be able to interpret the meaning of the Aramaic words.
- E. He needed his mommy.
- F. Daniel again got excluded, but then received the royal treatment.
- G. It required God to reveal this message.
- H. Other.

5. What did *mene, mene, tekel, parsin* mean (vs 26-28)?

- A. Nobody knows.
- B. Number, number, weigh, divide.
- C. Past tense: numbered, numbered, weighed, divided.
- D. Since nobody knew, Daniel could make up whatever he wanted.
- E. God told Daniel the right interpretation.
- F. It was obvious to Daniel the moment he saw it on the wall.
- G. It's over; you're judged; you're replaced.
- H. Other.

6. What was Daniel's message to Belshazzar?

- A. Give me more credit.
- B. You should have learned from Nebuchadnezzar.
- C. You should have learned from me.
- D. You are being judged for defiling the Most High God.
- E. You have a pride problem.
- F. I quit.
- G. Your kingdom is done.
- H. Other.

7. When does God pass judgment? How do you respond when God judges?

8. Who is a Belshazzar-type-of-person in your life? Who is a Daniel-type-of-person in your life?

Prey or Pray?

OPENING QUESTION

What do you think about cats? What do you think about lions?

READ Daniel 6:1-28.

1. How did Daniel do with the new Medo-Persian takeover of Babylon?

- A. Daniel thrived.
- B. He got demoted.
- C. His peers praised him.
- D. He didn't have any peers.
- E. His peers wanted to feed him to the lions.
- F. He got fed to the lions.
- G. The new king loved him.
- H. Daniel basically became the prime minister of Medo-Persia.
- I. Other.

2. Why did King Darius sign the law to worship only him for 30 days?

- A. It appealed to his ego.
- B. The new administrative team plotted this to eliminate Daniel.
- C. It was only temporary—30 days.
- D. With the big changes, the people needed a central figure to worship.
- E. Darius wanted to change from polytheism to monotheism.
- F. Worship the new king since the Babylonian gods were being returned to their temples.
- G. Darius couldn't think of any reason not to make this the law.
- H. This solidified the Babylonians to loyally follow their new king.
- J. Other.

3. What did Daniel do once he found out about the new decree?

- A. He went to the king immediately, as he had in *Daniel 2:16*.
- B. Daniel confronted the other administrators about their manipulations.
- C. Daniel prayed to God to deliver him.
- D. Daniel changed his prayer pattern.
- E. Daniel asked the Judean captives to fast and pray with him.
- F. It seemed like a good time to pray secretly in his closet.
- G. He didn't do anything differently.
- H. He recruited Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to pray with him.
- I. Other.

4. What did King Darius do to save Daniel?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Everything he could.
- C. Reaffirmed to the administrators the law was unchangeable.
- D. King Darius changed the law, citing executive privilege.
- E. He called in Daniel for advice/counsel.
- F. The king killed all the lions so the lions wouldn't kill Daniel.
- G. King Darius worshiped Daniel's God, praying for divine intervention.
- H. Other.

5. What happened during the night Daniel was in the lion's den?

- A. The king slept.
- B. Daniel slept.
- C. The government administrators slept.
- D. The lions slept.
- E. The guards at the lion's den slept.
- F. Daniel found a good place to hide.
- G. Some fasted by _____.
- H. Other.

6. What uncertainties do you face at this time?

- A. Job insecurity.
- B. Physical health.
- C. Emotional health.
- D. Mental health.
- E. My reputation—what others think about me.
- F. Family challenges.
- G. Faith challenges.
- H. Financial decisions and realities.
- I. Other.

**7. If someone wanted to criticize or undermine you, would they choose your faith/religion?
If not, what would they pick?**

8. What impresses you about the story of Daniel and the lion's den?

The Ruler Judges

OPENING QUESTION

Who would you like to be judged now? Who would/could do it?

READ Daniel 7:1-28.

1. What stands out about Daniel's dream in *chapter 7*?

- A. It seems the same as the dream in *chapter 2*.
- B. It seems different from the dream in *chapter 2*.
- C. It came to Daniel, not to a pagan king.
- D. It's the last part of the book written in Aramaic instead of Hebrew.
- E. The animals don't appear to be normal animals.
- F. The animals/beasts come out of the sea—where evil resides.
- G. The reason God sent Daniel this dream/vision.
- H. No kingdoms are named.
- I. Other.

2. What do these four animals/beasts reveal?

- A. They parallel Nebuchadnezzar's dream from *chapter 2*.
- B. They give additional details about each kingdom.
- C. Each animal/beast is more powerful than its predecessor.
- D. Each has a religious agenda.
- E. Each one is temporary.
- F. God's people are always ruled by others.
- G. God judges each kingdom.
- H. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the Christian Church.
- I. Other.

3. What's happening in *verses 9-14*?

- A. I have no idea.
- B. Thrones (plural) have been "put in place" (or "set up" or "cast down").
- C. The term "cast down"—same as the fiery furnace and den of lions.
- D. Judgment.
- E. The Son of Man is given everlasting dominion—the eternal ruler.
- F. This is the focal point of the whole book: Daniel = God is my judge.
- G. This is happening now.
- H. This won't happen until Christ's Second Coming.
- I. Other.

4. Who (or what) is the little horn (vs 8)?

- A. Anyone who doesn't worship God.
- B. The leaders of the fourth beast.
- C. The Catholic Church.
- D. The Christian Church.
- E. Islam.
- F. All pagan religions.
- G. The Antichrist.
- H. You and I.
- I. Other.

5. Who is the "one like a son of man" (vs 13)?

- A. A human being.
- B. Adam.
- C. Jesus.
- D. Someone "like" a human, but not simply a human.
- E. A contrast to the four beasts described "like" various animals.
- F. A contrast to the little horn with human eyes and a boastful mouth.
- G. It appears 200 times in the Bible—about half in the Gospels.
- H. The name Jesus used to describe himself (e.g. *Matthew 24:30-31*).
- I. Other.

6. How does the message of *Daniel 7* impact you?

- A. It doesn't.
- B. I'm confused.
- C. I'm excited.
- D. It scares me.
- E. It gives me comfort and joy.
- F. It's the heart of the book; already stated in *Daniel 2:44*.
- G. I focus more on the beasts than on God's judgment of the beasts.
- H. Other.

7. How are followers of God supposed to live before God's eternal kingdom begins?

8. Is God's judgment good news or bad news for you? What emotion(s) does it touch in you?

A Clean Sanctuary

OPENING QUESTION

Who cleans your sanctuary?

READ Daniel 8:1-27.

1. Put an “X” by how Daniel 7 and 8 are similar and/or different.

SIMILAR

- A. The year of a certain king’s reign.
- B. Animals.
- C. Horns.
- D. A little horn that grows greatly.
- E. Judgment.
- F. Sanctuary.
- G. Explanation of the vision.
- H. Other.

DIFFERENT

2. Why does *Daniel 8* have only two animals instead of four?

- A. The first beast of *Daniel 7* was just about finished.
- B. The fourth beast of *Daniel 7* didn’t really matter much.
- C. *Daniel 8* is written in Hebrew instead of Aramaic.
- D. These are sanctuary animals.
- E. The little horn is the main thing.
- F. The sanctuary is the main thing.
- G. Two animals match two holy ones (*vs 13*).
- H. The chapter is more about the sanctuary than about the animals.
- I. Other.

3. What made the little horn so significant?

- A. It started small but grew in size and power.
- B. It impacted things vertically (heaven), not just horizontally (earth).
- C. It took the place of God.
- D. It took down the sanctuary services.
- E. It trampled the truths of God.
- F. It took down the sanctuary.
- G. This brings to mind the Tower of Babel (*Genesis 11*).
- H. This brings to mind *Isaiah 14*, *Ezekiel 28*, and *Revelation 12*.
- I. Other.

4. Why does the sanctuary need to be cleansed/vindicated/made right?

- A. Everything gets dirty and eventually needs a good cleaning.
- B. Pagan enemies of God's people desecrated it.
- C. The leaders of God's people desecrated it.
- D. God's people desecrated it (and still desecrate it).
- E. Satan desecrated it (and still desecrates it).
- F. The purpose of the sanctuary got desecrated.
- G. The sanctuary stopped being God's dwelling place.
- H. I don't know.
- I. Other.

5. When is/was the sanctuary cleansed?

- A. When Moses and Solomon consecrated it (*Ex 40; 2 Chron 7*).
- B. King Hezekiah after King Ahaz desecrated it (*2 Chron 28:24-29:36*).
- C. King Josiah did it after King Manasseh desecrated it (*2 Kings 21-22*).
- D. Jesus did it at the start of his ministry (*John 2*).
- E. Jesus did it at the close of his ministry (*Mark 11*).
- F. When Jesus died on Calvary (*Matthew 27:51*).
- G. At the end of the 2300 days/years—October 22, 1844.
- H. Other.

6. Who cleanses/purifies/vindicates/makes right the sanctuary?

- A. Whoever made it dirty is responsible for cleaning it.
- B. It's up to me.
- C. Satan.
- D. Gabriel.
- E. God.
- F. The people of God.
- G. God's last generation—the Remnant.
- H. Other.

7. What (or Who) is the sanctuary—literally and symbolically—to you?

8. When is your sanctuary cleansed/purified/vindicated/made right?

Covenant Prayer and Prophecy

OPENING QUESTION

Give an example of one of your prayers that God has answered.

READ Daniel 9:1-27.

1. What caught Daniel's attention while reading his Bible at this time?

- A. After 70 years, God's people would return to Judah (*Jer 29:10*).
- B. After 70 years, Babylon would be punished (*Jer 25:11-12*).
- C. God's plan provides a future and hope for seekers (*Jer 29:11-13*).
- D. God promised a new covenant—internal (*Jer 31:31-34*).
- E. Daniel's life was almost over (*Psalms 90:10*).
- F. God's covenant includes punishment and mercy (*Deut 4:23-31*).
- G. Promises for returning to God and the covenant (*Deut 30:1-10*).
- H. Turn to God in prayer (*2 Chronicles 7:14*).
- I. Other.

2. What did you notice in Daniel's prayer (*vs 4-19*)?

- A. It's the longest prayer in the whole book.
- B. It's the seventh and final prayer in the book of Daniel.
- C. Daniel serves as an intercessor, fully identifying with his people.
- D. Daniel went all out in this prayer.
- E. Praying put Daniel in the lion's den earlier that same year (*Dan 6*).
- F. Many other Jews were praying the same thing.
- G. The wording sounds like phrases from other parts of the Bible.
- H. Daniel bargained with God.
- I. Other.

3. Which items in this chapter relate to God's covenant with his people?

- A. Daniel started his prayer by referencing the covenant (*vs 4*).
- B. All of God's people repeatedly broke their covenant with God.
- C. Covenants are about relationships.
- D. Covenants are about everlasting love.
- E. Covenants are about obedience or punishment.
- F. God will make a new covenant with his people.
- G. God will strengthen his existing covenant with his people.
- H. To "cut" a covenant means to start a covenant.
- I. Other.

4. Why all the 7s (and forms of 7s) in this chapter?

- A. There aren't that many 7s in this chapter.
- B. It's God's favorite number.
- C. It had been almost 70 years since Daniel's exile had begun.
- D. Daniel hoped and prayed he would finally get a Sabbatical.
- E. The 70 years of 10 Sabbaticals might yield a Messiah (Cyrus).
- F. The 70 weeks (7s) jubilee could signify a new world.
- G. The jubilee launched the Messiah's mission (*Luke 4:18-21; Is. 61*).
- H. God's personal and eternal name, Yahweh, occurs 7 times here.
- I. Other.

5. What message did Gabriel have for Daniel?

- A. Here am I; send me.
- B. I'm here to give you insight and understanding.
- C. You're very special to God.
- D. This is much bigger than what was in your prayer.
- E. You'll never believe what I tell you.
- F. You get to return to Jerusalem, even though it's only rubble.
- G. This will give you a starting point for the previous vision (*Daniel 8*).
- H. Other.

6. What is the meaning of verses 24-27?

- A. I have no idea.
- B. Verse 24 gives the overview; verses 25-27 provide more details.
- C. Jerusalem will be rebuilt, but it will be very difficult.
- D. The Messiah (Anointed One) will finally come to earth.
- E. The glorious kingdom will start when the Messiah comes.
- F. The Messiah will be rejected and killed.
- G. The Messiah is history's turning point.
- H. Persecution, but the covenant will reach more people (*Acts 7-10*).
- I. Other.

7. How is your prayer life? What do you say to God? What does God say to you?

8. *Daniel 7* is about judgment (Christ is king/judge). *Daniel 8* is about the sanctuary (Christ is your priest). *Daniel 9* is about covenant (Christ is our sacrifice). Which is most important to you?

Natural and Supernatural

OPENING QUESTION

What have you observed in the past year that seems supernatural to you?

READ Daniel 10:1-21.

1. What is the “great war” in verse 1?

- A. Medo-Persia vs. Babylon (*Daniel 2:37-39*).
- B. Medo-Persia vs. Greece (*Daniel 8:20-21*).
- C. The little horn that became big and boastful (*Daniel 8:9-12*).
- D. The abomination of desolation (*Daniel 5:27; Matthew 24:15*).
- E. Thwarting the rebuilding of the temple (*Daniel 9:25; Ezra 4*).
- F. The Great Controversy between Christ and Satan.
- G. Herod’s attempt to kill baby Jesus (*Matthew 2:16*).
- H. The war in heaven between Michael and Satan (*Revelation 12:7-9*).
- I. Other.

2. What is the context of Daniel’s theophany (vision of God himself)?

- A. Daniel remained prominent in the court of King Cyrus.
- B. Daniel had returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple.
- C. The visions he received previously hadn’t been fully explained.
- D. Fasting for three weeks.
- E. The fast occurred during the Passover (cf. *Exod 12:3; Dan 10:2-4*).
- F. The vision occurred on the Sabbath, like John’s vision (*Rev 1:10*).
- G. A great war.
- H. The angel Gabriel explained visions to Daniel in *chapters 8 and 9*.
- I. Other.

3. Who is the “man” described in verses 5-6?

- A. Cyrus.
- B. Gabriel.
- C. Michael.
- D. The priests in the temple (*Exodus 28:4-5, 8; Leviticus 16:4*).
- E. The same one Joshua saw (*Joshua 5:13-15*).
- F. The same one Isaiah saw (*Isaiah 6:1-8*).
- G. The same one with the four living creatures (*Ezekiel 1*).
- H. The same one John saw (*Revelation 1:12-18*).
- I. Other.

4. Put a ✓ by things that are natural and an X by those supernatural.

- A. ___ King Cyrus.
- B. ___ Daniel.
- C. ___ Those with Daniel.
- D. ___ The man in *verses 5-6*.
- E. ___ Michael.
- F. ___ The one who gave Daniel the explanation (Gabriel?).
- G. ___ The prince of the Persian kingdom.
- H. ___ Other.

5. What did Daniel need help with in this chapter?

- A. Getting some food.
- B. Getting answers to his prayers.
- C. Standing on his own two feet.
- D. Stopping his trembling.
- E. The ability to talk.
- F. Fighting the prince of Persia.
- G. Strength.
- H. Other.

6. What does prayer do?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Something.
- C. Everything.
- D. It connects the natural with the supernatural (*Ephesians 6:10-20*).
- E. It connects the supernatural with the natural (*Ephesians 6:10-20*).
- F. It matches heaven and earth (*Daniel 10:2, 13; Matthew 6:10, 12*).
- G. It sparks supernatural interventions.
- H. Other.

7. Why does God intervene in obvious ways sometimes, but not at other times?

8. How does the Great Controversy between God/good and Satan/evil impact you in large and small ways?

World Ruler(s)

OPENING QUESTION

Name a sports team that has dominated for decades.

Name a country that has dominated for centuries.

READ Daniel 11:1-45.

1. What is the lead-in to *Daniel 11*?

- A. All of *Daniel 10*.
- B. Everything in the book of Daniel to this point.
- C. A reminder of *Daniel 9* (the first year of Darius the Mede).
- D. Powerful political leaders.
- E. A great war.
- F. Natural and supernatural engagement.
- G. Michael stands up.
- H. A description of Jesus, and possibly Gabriel as well.
- I. Other.

2. What happens between the East and West at the start of this chapter?

- A. Nothing much.
- B. War.
- C. Sunrise and sunset.
- D. East represents God/good; West represents Satan/evil.
- E. Details about national rulers of East and West.
- F. This hints about Christ's Second Coming (*Matt 24:27*).
- G. The distance between our forgiven sins and us (*Psalms 103:12*).
- H. It's like an all-star game between teams from the East and the West.
- I. Other.

3. What happens between the North and the South in this chapter (5-39)?

- A. War.
- B. War expands to the four points of the compass.
- C. Back-and-forth; rise-and-fall.
- D. Conflicts (5-20), political bad guy (21-30), religious bad guy (31-39).
- E. It sounds like our world today.
- F. It sounds like our world throughout history.
- G. It sounds like *Matthew 24:6*.
- H. One side dominates.
- I. Other.

4. How do you explain all of the symbolic details in this chapter?

- A. I don't even try.
- B. These details are literal, not symbolic.
- C. You need to be a scholar of Christian history to figure it out.
- D. It helps if you just choose one person's explanation.
- E. We can't figure it out.
- F. Michael or Gabriel will need to explain it to me.
- G. A person's expectations will influence their interpretation.
- H. Other.

5. What do you see in *Daniel 11* that has roots earlier in the book?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Lots of things.
- C. Political rising and falling.
- D. It seems to follow the flow of *chapters 2, 7, 8, and 9*.
- E. God's people are sometimes persecuted, sometimes protected.
- F. Humans try to be God.
- G. Praying.
- H. It usually appears that God is losing, but he wins in the end.
- I. Other.

6. What will you do with this chapter?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Study it more.
- C. Put it away for a while (or forever).
- D. Pray about it.
- E. Share it with others.
- F. Have more fear.
- G. Have more faith.
- H. Other.

7. The verses before and after *chapter 11* identify Michael standing up for God's people. When has Michael stood up for you? What do you want Michael to do now?

8. As a follower of God, do you expect life to be easy or hard? Why?

The End

OPENING QUESTION

How do you know when a story comes to an end?

READ Daniel 12:1-13.

1. What does it mean, “At that time Michael will arise” (vs 1)?

- A. Michael has been sitting on the job.
- B. It matches the start of this final vision (10:21).
- C. This happens after the demise of the Kings of the North and South.
- D. It indicates Michael will take action.
- E. Rising lets you know judgment will be pronounced.
- F. Stand up as a demonstration of honor and respect.
- G. Stand up for prayer.
- H. God draws the line—this is the end.
- I. Other.

2. What does this “time of trouble” (distress, tribulation) indicate?

- A. It’s just like regular life on earth.
- B. It warns of the worst time ever (cf. *Matthew 24:15, 21*).
- C. This could be the best time ever (*Isaiah 5:9*).
- D. Satan’s last failing attempt to win.
- E. A time to depend on God (*Psalms 37:39; Isaiah 33:2*).
- F. God will be there, like he has previously (*Jer 14:8; 15:11; 30:7*).
- G. A reminder of Jacob’s wrestling with God (*Genesis 32:24-30*).
- H. Michael doesn’t stop all trouble, but delivers in the midst of trouble.
- I. Other.

3. When will God’s people be delivered?

- A. It already happened at the cross.
- B. It already happened at Christ’s resurrection.
- C. When Jesus returns the second time.
- D. After the millennium (*Rev 20*).
- E. After Satan gets destroyed in the lake of fire (*Rev 20:10*).
- F. Not until God’s people stop sinning.
- G. When God’s people fully trust Jesus for their salvation.
- H. After the three “times” mentioned in verse 1.
- I. Other.

4. What happens at this predicted/promised resurrection (vs 2-3)?

- A. Lots of people get resurrected.
- B. Everyone who has ever died gets resurrected.
- C. Only Jews will be resurrected at that time.
- D. Only Christians will be resurrected at that time.
- E. This reverses the curse, "return to dust," from the Fall (*Genesis 3:19*).
- F. This describes God's new creation, made from dust (*Genesis 2:7*).
- G. Jesus made the same prediction/promise (*John 5:25-29*).
- H. Other.

5. How long until this happens?

- A. Only God knows.
- B. Only Michael knows.
- C. Only Christians know.
- D. Only my denomination knows.
- E. Not until, "A time, times, and half a time" (*12:7; 7:25*).
- F. Any day now.
- G. After the 1260, 1290, and 1335 days (*vs 11-12*).
- H. Other.

6. Put a ✓ by what Daniel was to do, and an X by what you are to do.

DANIEL

YOU

- A. Keep doing what you've been doing.
- B. Make a radical change in what you're doing.
- C. Seal up the messages in this book.
- D. Unseal and study the messages in this book.
- E. Be purified, spotless, and refined.
- F. Be blessed.
- G. Rest; then be resurrected/rise (*vs 1, 13*).
- H. Other.

7. Does the message from *Daniel 12* promote paranoia, celebration, vengeance, expectations, or something else for you?

8. What do you consider to be the primary message from the Book of Daniel as a whole for you at this time?

