

Layer 1 *(WHOLE BOOK DIVIDED INTO 2)*

Book of Daniel

Main theme – The Kingdom of God triumphing over the kingdom of men

Sub themes

1. God's protection of His children
2. God's judgements on kings and kingdoms

Chapter 1-6

- Simple stories – that demonstrate God's protection of His children while judging kings and kingdoms
- *(Most well-known parts of scripture)*
- Pronoun is "he"
- First chapter written in Hebrew, the next 5 are in Chaldean
- Daniel explaining visions
- Kings are troubled, distressed and can't sleep

Chapter 7-12

- Detailed prophecies – that demonstrate God's protection of His children while judging kings and kingdoms
- *(Least well-known parts of scripture)*
- Pronoun is "I"
- First chapter written in Chaldean, the next 5 are in Hebrew
- Gabriel explaining visions
- Daniel is troubled, distressed and can't sleep

Layer 2

Chapter 1-5

Ch1 – Beginning of Babylon

- Vessels of God's house came into house of Neb's god. (*Symbolises God's people going into captivity*)

Ch2 – Near beginning Of Neb's reign

- A dream of a great statue
- 'God of heaven has given thee a kingdom' (v37)
- 'Beasts of the field and fowl of the heaven hath he given into thine hand' (v38)

Ch3 – Neb speaks against God ... "who is thy God" and throws the 3 friends into the fiery furnace.
Neb's gods verses the 3 friends God
Which God is in control?

Ch4 – Near end of Neb's reign

- A vision of a great tree
- 'Till thou know the Most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomsoever He will' (v25)
- 'Beasts of the field had shadow under it and the fowls of heaven dwelt in the boughs' (v12)

Ch5 – End of Babylon

- Vessels of God's house brought out from house of Neb's god (*Symbolises God's people getting ready to come out of captivity*)

Structure of the Book of Daniel

Chapter 6-9

Ch6 – 1st year of Darius

- Daniel prays (v10)
- Toward Jerusalem (v10)
- Princes come *while he's praying* (v11)
- Princes are cut off (*wives and children*) (v24)

Ch7 – 1st year of Belshazzar

- 4 beasts from the sea (the last has 10 horns out of which comes a little horn that subdues 3 of the horns)
- 4th beast stamps with his feet (v7,23)
- Little horn of the beast *makes war with saints and speaks words against the Most High...until the judgement sits.* (Western Roman empire)

Ch8 – 3rd year of Belshazzar

- 2 beasts by a river (the last has 1 horn which is broken and 4 replace it and out of one comes a little horn)
- Goat stamps with his feet (v7)
- Little horn of the goat *causes the host and sanctuary to be cast under foot and magnifies himself in his heart...until he is broken.* (Eastern Roman empire)

Ch9 – 1st year of Darius

- Daniel prays (v3)
- 70 yrs of Jerusalem's desolations accomplished (v2)
- Gabriel comes *while he was speaking in prayer* (v21)
- Messiah the Prince shall be cut off (v25-26)

The Whole book divided into 3

Chapter 10-12

Ch10 – 3rd year of Cyrus

- Time appointed was long (v1)
- Daniel understood the vision (v1)
- Certain man clothed in linen (v5-6)
- Symbolic resurrection of Daniel (v8-19)
- None that holdeth... but Michael your prince (v21)

Ch11 – Goes back to 1st year of Darius

- Conflict between the King of the North and the King of the South.
- King of the North *shall be against the holy covenant causing many to fall by sword, flame, captivity and spoil...he shall exalt himself and magnify himself above all and speak marvellous things against the God of gods...until divine indignation be accomplished* (North and South Grecian Kingdoms)

Ch12 – 3rd year of Cyrus

- Michael...the great Prince which standeth for the children of *thy people* (v1)
- Resurrection of *many* (v2)
- Man clothed in linen with *two others* (5-7)
- Daniel understood not (v8)
- The time appointed is 1290yrs (and 1335) (v11-12)

Note the singular in Ch10 and the plural in Ch12 (i.e. 'your prince' 10v2 and 'prince of your people' 12v1)

Chapter 2

Vision of 4 world empires followed by a 5th – God’s Kingdom

Contains a prophecy

- Neb had a vision at night on his bed
- He was ‘troubled’ by it
- Sought an explanation
- Given divine meaning
- Image was “terrible”

MAIN THEME
Focus – God’s purpose

Chapter 3

Divine deliverance from the fiery furnace

Contains story only

- Decree issued to worship only Nebs god
- It affects everyone
- The 3 friends defy
- Neb is enraged when he hears
- Willingly enforces the punishment
- 3 friends thrown into fiery furnace
- An angel is sent
- They are delivered unscathed
- A new decree issued to worship only the God of the 3 friends

SUB THEME 1
Focus – True worship

Layer 3

Chapter 4v1-33

Divine Judgement on Nebuchadnezzar

Contains a prophecy

- Neb has a vision
- It troubled him and made him afraid
- All the wise men could not interpret
- Daniel at the last comes in and can interpret
- The vision addresses Nebs pride
- Judgement came “...the same hour”

SUB THEME 2
Focus – Human pride

(THE CHALDEAN CHAPTERS)

Chapter 4v34-37

Nebuchadnezzar’s conversion

Contains the key to divine acceptance

- Neb expresses his utter humility before God
- Praises, extols and honours the one true King of Heaven
- Acknowledges the power of the Most High to control human affairs

Focus – True humility

Chapter 5

Divine Judgement on Belshazzar

Contains a prophecy

- Bel saw writing appear on a wall
- It troubled him and made him afraid
- All the wise men could not interpret
- Daniel at the last is called in and can interpret
- The vision addresses Bel’s pride
- Judgement came “...in that night”

SUB THEME 2
Focus – Human pride

Chapter 6

Divine deliverance from the lion’s den

Contains story only

- Decree issued to worship only Darius
- It affects everyone
- Daniel defies
- Darius is distressed when he hears
- Grudgingly enforces the punishment
- Daniel thrown in the lions den
- An angel is sent
- He is delivered unscathed
- A new decree is issued to worship only the God of Daniel

SUB THEME 1
Focus – True worship

Chapter 7

Visions of 4 world empires followed by a 5th – God’s Kingdom

Contains a prophecy

- Daniel had a vision at night on his bed
- He was ‘troubled’ by it
- Sought an explanation
- Given divine meaning
- 4th beast was “terrible”

MAIN THEME
Focus – God’s purpose

Layer 4

(INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS)

Daniel Chapter 2

- A Neb has a dream he doesn't understand, which troubles him (V1)
- B Wise men cannot interpret (V2-13)
 - 1. Tell me the dream and interpretation
 - 2. No man can – only the gods
- C Daniel asks Arioch why the hasty decree to slay all the wise men (V14-16)
(Decree goes out from the king in haste)
- D Daniel and 3 friends pray for mercies concerning the secret (V17-18)
- E *The secret is revealed to Daniel (a phrase that occurs 6 more times in the 2nd half (V22,28,29,30,47 twice) (V19)*
- D Daniel prays with thankfulness for the revealing of the secret (V19-23)
- C Daniel asks Arioch not to destroy all the wise men (24-25)
(Daniel is brought in to the king in haste)
- B Daniel is able to interpret (V27-45)
 - 2. Daniel says 'I can't – only the God of heaven can
 - 1. Tells the dream and the interpretation
- A Neb now understands the dream and is thankful to Daniel (46-49)

Layer 5

(SECTIONS WITHIN A CHAPTER)

The Dream (2v31-35)

- A Behold a **great image**...whose **brightness was excellent** (V31)
- B **stood** before thee (V31)
- C and the **form** thereof was **terrible** (V31)
- D This images head was of fine **gold**, his breast and arms of **silver**, his belly and thighs of **brass**, his legs of **iron**, his feet part of iron and part of **clay**. (V32-33)
- E *till a stone was cut out without hands which smote the image upon the feet of iron and clay and brake them to pieces* (V34)
- D Then was the **iron**, the **clay**, the **brass**, the **silver**, and the **gold** (V5)
- C **Broken** to **pieces** together and became **like chaff** (V35) *(i.e. no longer had any form)*
- B The wind **carried them away** so that no place was found for them (V35) *(i.e. no longer able to stand)*
- A The stone...became a **great mountain** and **filled the whole earth**(V35)

The Interpretation (2v37-44)

- A a) **God of heaven** hath given thee a **kingdom** (V37)
b) **After thee** shall arise **another kingdom**...and **another third kingdom**...And the **fourth kingdom** (V39,40)
c) **Shall it break in pieces and bruise** (V40)
- B a) **Whereas thou sawest** the feet and toes, part of **iron** and part of **clay**, the kingdom shall be divided
b) **But** there shall be in it the strength of the iron, **forasmuch** as thou sawest **iron mixed with miry clay**. (V41)
- C *The toes of the feet were part of iron and part of clay so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly broken* (V42)
- B a) **Whereas thou sawest iron** mixed with **miry clay**, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men
b) **But** they shall not cleave one to another, **even as iron is not mixed with clay**. (V43)
- A a) **God of heaven** shall set up a **kingdom** (V44)
b) Which shall **never be destroyed**. It shall **not be left to other people** (V44)
c) **Shall brake in pieces and consume** (V44)