

Daniel – Session 1

Background – Daniel Ch. 1&2

- 1:1 605BC Daniel dies 533BC (72)
- 2 God gave Jehoiakim's kingdom to Nebuchadnezzar
- 6 Children – 12-15 years old!
- 7 Names changed: Chaldean Name:
- Daniel – God is my Judge Belteshazzar – Bel (pagan god) protects his life
 - Hananiah – Yahweh hath been gracious Shadrach – the command of Alen (moon god)
 - Mishael – Who is what El is? Meshach – Who is this?
 - Azariah – Yahweh has helped Abednego – servant of the god Nabor
- Trying to replace all Hebrew traces. Daniel stays Daniel throughout the book; friends referred to by new names.
- 8-10 Purposed – 10 days
- 15 Looked better
- 16 Allowed to keep with their diets
- 17 These 4 given special knowledge and skill; Daniel has more
- 2:49 Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream; requests his friends be put in high positions

Daniel Ch. 3 – The Fiery Furnace

- 3:1 Nebuchadnezzar erects a statue. 3 score cubits high x 6 cubits wide.
 $3 \times 20 = 60 \times 1.5 = 90\text{FT high}$ $6 \times 1.5 = 9\text{FT wide}$
- 2, 3 Calls all important people to the dedication of his statue
- 4 Decree:
- 5 Whenever they hear the music, they were to bow down and worship this image
- 6 Consequence: don't bow down -> cast into the fiery furnace
- 7 Almost everyone obeyed!
- 8 Chaldeans accused the Jews of not obeying! Jews were foreigners
- 9 Building up Nebuchadnezzar
- 12 Finally get to their point – Shadrach, Meshack, & Abednego [SMA] not bowing down. Would be easy to spot – everyone else was bowing down.

- 13 Nebuchadnezzar is mad!
- 14 Wants their side of their story
- 16 Confidence
- 17 Note the confidence of these young men in their answer to the king: if they are guilty, God is able and He will deliver them
- 18 Even if God can't deliver them – which He can! – they will not bow down!
- 19 Nebuchadnezzar gets madder – commands the furnace be 7x hotter than normal!
Idiom: literally – make it as hot as it can be!
- 20 Cast into the furnace!
- 21 Customarily, those accused would be stripped of their clothing. It appears SMA were still wearing their official outfits. Would not look good for them to be in official clothing and being punished.
- 22 So hot – those throwing SMA in were consumed
Spontaneous combustion in humans occurs at 3000 °F – this is a hot furnace!
- 23 God is preserving SMA in the furnace
- 24 Nebuchadnezzar asks how many were cast into the furnace
- 25 He sees 4
“Like the Son of God” – OT mention and reference to Jesus
How did Nebuchadnezzar know this? He knew enough about the God Daniel and SMA served and this is the only logical conclusion.
- 26 Nebuchadnezzar speaks to SMA and they come out
- 27 SMA comes out and they are examined
No hair burnt
No smell of smoke on them!
- 28 Nebuchadnezzar praises God!
- 29 Makes decree to worship God
Remember: Nebuchadnezzar was a pagan king
- 30 SMA promoted

No more mention of SMA

Session 2 – Lions’ Den

Background – Ch. 4, 5, & 6

Ch. 4 – Dream interpreted by Daniel

Ch. 5 – Handwriting on the Wall

Ch. 6 – Occurs during the beginning of Darius’ reign. Daniel is now an old man.

5:31 Age 62

Daniel and the Lions’ Den

6:1 Darius set up 120 princes to oversee the kingdom

2 Daniel one of the 3 set above the princes

3 Daniel to be set over all the kingdom – basically just below Darius

4 Problem: Daniel – a Jew – is in too much power for the liking of the natives in control

Second problem: (really for Daniel’s opponents) they couldn’t find anywhere that Daniel had made mistakes

5 Try to find something against Daniel in serving God

6 Assembling to trap Daniel

7 Not all came up with the plan but all were there to present it!

30 days – examine for 1 month

8 Law of Medes & Persians – a way to make sure something signed into a law would be powerful and remain in effect.

9 Darius signed the decree. He will later regret this shortly. The enemies are happy.

10 Note the character of Daniel – he knew this had been written

“As he did aforetime” – just like Daniel always had done, he prayed

He did not let this new rule change his worship to God!

Window open – just like he always did. He wasn’t home but he was facing home.

3x: thought to be (1) time of the morning before the burnt offering, (2) the ninth hour [3PM], (3) at sunset.

11 Men assembled and found Daniel doing what they knew him to be doing.

12 Run to the king to make sure the new law is in effect – he assures them it is!

13 They reveal Daniel was in violation of the new law

- 14 Darius realizes what has happened and becomes determined to set Daniel free
He worked on it from sunrise to sunset
- 15 These men assembled before Darius and reminded him the law cannot be changed
- 16 Law has to be carried out
Note what Darius says to Daniel
- 17 A stone was laid to cover up the Lions' Den
It was sealed and not to be tampered with
- 18 Nothing could cheer up Darius
Not music, food, dancing girls, concubines – nothing!
He lost another night's sleep over this
- 19 Darius woke early the next morning to check on Daniel
- 20 Imagine the tone of his voice as he cried for Daniel in the den
- 21 Imagine the reaction of the king when he heard Daniel speak from the den
- 22 Angel shut the lions' mouths
Innocence – Daniel had done nothing wrong in the sight of God
- 23 Daniel not hurt
- 24 Enemies and families cast in the den, probably the other 2 presidents. Regardless, his enemies receive what they lined up for Daniel

Critics say the lions weren't hungry when Daniel was in the den and they didn't want to eat him. This is gone out the window when we see what the lions did to the enemies.
- 25 Darius set up a decree similar to Nebuchadnezzar's
- 26 Darius – scholars argue – did not become monotheistic, but he regarded God as supreme with others below Him.
- 28 God allowed Daniel to prosper
- Ch. 7 through the end of the book focus on dreams Daniel had.

Theme: L.I.O.N. the Lord Is Our Navigator

Session 1: How did He navigate Shadrack, Meshack, & Abednego?

Session 2: How did He navigate Daniel?

Today: How is He our navigator? Through the Word!