

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 01 June	Ezekiel 01-07	When Your World Crumbles
2) 08 June	Ezekiel 08-14	When Idols Tug at your Heart
3) 15 June	Ezekiel 15-19	When You Want to Blame Others
4) 22 June	Ezekiel 20-24	When Tragedy Hits Home
5) 29 June	Ezekiel 25-32	When Pride Turns to Greed
6) 06 July	Ezekiel 33-35	Hope of New Freedom
7) 13 July	Ezekiel 36-39	Hope of New Life
8) 20 July	Ezekiel 40-48	Hope of New Worship
9) 27 July	Daniel 01	Draw the Line
10) 03 August	Daniel 02-03	Risk Everything for God
11) 10 August	Daniel 04-05	Tell it Like it is
12) 17 August	Daniel 06	Never Give Up on Prayer
13) 24 August	Daniel 07-08	Live to Win in the End
14) 31 August	Daniel 09-12	Be Ready for Tribulation

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- **Author:** Daniel, himself, seems to be the author (9:2; 10:2); Jesus concurred: “the abomination of desolation’ which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet” Mat 24:15
- **Theme:** The theological theme of the book is God’s sovereignty; “The Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind”5:21
- **Language:** For some reason, the original autograph and early copies were in Hebrew and Aramaic (2:4b through 7:28)
- **Historical Testimony:** Josephus recorded that Daniel and his 3 friends were kin to King Zedekiah
- **Doctrinal Topics:** God-invoked dreams, dream interpretation, revealing of hidden secrets, physical protection from harm, apocalyptic visions, interpretation of handwriting, conversing with Angels
- **Unique Features:**
 - ♦ Daniel has more to say about the Tribulation and the Antichrist than any other OT book
 - ♦ Daniel is the only OT book to specifically mention Angels by name (Gabriel and Michael the archangel). Lucifer/Satan is surreptitiously named in Isaiah 14:12 (literally “light bearer”)
 - ♦ There are so many parallels between Daniel and Revelation that many seminaries often include them in the same course
- **Assyrian → Babylonian → Persian Succession:**
 1. The Assyrians laid siege and dispersed the 10 tribes of the Northern Kingdom of Israel throughout its empire~710 BC
 2. The Babylonians conquered the Assyrians, then they conquered the Southern Kingdom of Judah.....~580 BC
 3. The Persian empire finally conquered the Babylonians and allowed the Jews to return to their homeland
- **Outline Highlights:**
 - ♦ **Lesson 1** – Daniel 1. Daniel and his friends are led away as captives and yet remain faithful under duress
 - ♦ **Lesson 2** – Daniel 2-3. Daniel interprets 2 dreams
 - ♦ **Lesson 3** – Daniel 4-5. Daniel foretells Babylon’s downfall
 - ♦ **Lesson 4** – Daniel 6. Daniel’s deliverance from the lion’s den
 - ♦ **Lesson 5** – Daniel 7-8. Daniel foretells Israel’s destiny
 - ♦ **Lesson 6** – Daniel 9-12. Daniel’s final visions are apocalyptic

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v7. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah lost their Jewish identities and received foreign names (Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego) – and they accepted it without a fight or a fuss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ When is it appropriate to put up a fight or a fuss?
“Ability to Serve...”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fortunately, God has the patience and is willing to work with those of us who might be on the lower end of the good looks and intelligence spectrum • Two qualities remain the same between God & the Babylonians – they both want a good attitude & willingness to learn • “Today’s school curriculum calls for us to teach students by entertaining them, but God’s word tells us if we want to learn we must shut up and listen” – anonymous teacher
1:8-16	<p>Discipline Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v8. Daniel “made up his mind” early & refused to eat the king’s food – IOW, Daniel thought through the consequences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What was so vile about the king’s food? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It may have been offered to pagan gods, which, if known, would convey compromise with idolatry 2. It may have been unclean according to Jewish dietary laws (Leviticus 11) • v9. “God granted Daniel favor and compassion...” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Does God still do this today?..... Yep ♦ Like Daniel, we have to give God something to work with. If we are argumentative & exhibit other bad attitudes and behaviors, no favor or compassion will be coming our way. ♦ Remember, even God cannot work with obstinate cows, but only with cooperative sheep Hosea 4:16 • vv10-16. Daniel probably thought ‘nothing ventured, nothing gained’ so he suggested a reasonable alternative (a soft answer turns away wrath, Proverbs 15:1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What would have happened to Daniel and his friends if they were not allowed to change their diets?
1:17-21	<p>God-Given Wisdom Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God specifically equipped Daniel and his friends with extraordinary intellect and talents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Was this a supernatural wonder to increase their IQs and skills? Or was it providential preparation? Does God still do this today? If so, HOW, WHERE, WHEN, and FOR WHOM? If not, WHY? ♦ Remember, Daniel and his 3 friends were selected specifically for being better than most others, and they were probably even better than their Babylonian counterparts. They took their studies seriously even under adverse conditions (no chance to go back home to family) ♦ At the end of 3 years they were found to be 10x better

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- We may not be able to interpret dreams, reveal hidden secrets, talk with angels, receive apocalyptic visions and escape execution like Daniel and his friends did, but we can still stand by our convictions to remain faithful to God under all circumstances

NEXT WEEK: Daniel 2-3. Daniel’s gift of dream interpretation saves his life and the lives of many others. Are God-given dreams and dream interpretation still occurring today?

IN THE BLEACHERS

BY STEVE MOORE



Why Nebuchadnezzar possibly attacked Jerusalem...

Passage	Comments
Daniel 1:1-2	<p>Disasters Happen – with God’s Approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem in 605 BC, he plundered the Temple and took captive many from among the Jewish royalty and nobility, including Daniel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ But, why did Babylon want to indoctrinate enemies? ♦ This would be akin to making Osama Bin Laden’s kids advisors to the U.S. President ♦ Nebuchadnezzar’s 2nd conquest in 597 captured Ezekiel. Babylon’s 3rd conquest in 586 totally destroyed Jerusalem and Solomon’s temple
1:3-7	<p>Temptations Come – with God’s Approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. Not just anyone could receive training in Babylon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Physical traits: Young men must come from a rich political family, & must be good looking WHY? ♦ IQ traits: Above average IQ, quick learners (3 yrs), good attitude (“...ability to serve in high places”)