

DANIEL: Introduction

About ten years before Ezekiel was exiled to Babylon, and about twenty years before Jerusalem was destroyed, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took the first group of God's people out of their land. He chose young men from Judah to come and serve in the Babylonian court; Daniel and his friends were among them.

Daniel would live in Babylon for at least the next 60 years.

This book is neatly divided into two halves, beginning with stories from Daniel's life and ending with Daniel's apocalyptic visions of the future. Although different in genre, the two halves work together to communicate the same truths about living as exiles: God rules over all—and even when it feels like He doesn't—it is possible for His people to live faithfully.

Daniel 1–6 — Daniel's Life in Babylon

Daniel 7–12 — Daniel's Visions of the Future

Watch for these themes as you read Daniel:

- Much of the prophecy in Daniel is concerned with kingdoms and political powers spanning far into the future. Pay attention to how these prophecies highlight the truth that **God's Kingdom is the only one that will last forever.**
- Watch for the prominent role of **prayer** in the book.
- Daniel is a hero; he acts in a way that is commendable and that we should seek to imitate. But he is not **the greatest hero in the Bible.** How does the life of Daniel direct your attention to Jesus?