

# thrive

## The Book of Daniel: Week Two

### Author

- Daniel was a young man in whom there was no blemish, good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge, and quick to understand (1:4).
- He was given three years of training in the best of Babylon's schools (1:5). As part of the re-identification process.
- Daniel's wisdom and divinely given interpretive abilities brought him into a position of prominence, especially in the courts of Nebuchadnezzar and Darius.
- His life was characterized by faith, prayer, courage, consistency, and lack of compromise.

### Date and Setting

- Babylon rebelled against the Assyrian Empire in 626 b.c. and overthrew the Assyrian capital of Nineveh in 612 B.C.
- Babylon became the master of the Middle East when it defeated the Egyptian armies in 605 BC.
- Daniel was among those taken captive to Babylon that year when Nebuchadnezzar subdued Jerusalem.
- He ministered for the entirety of the Babylonian captivity as a prophet and a government official. He continued after Babylon was overcome by the Medes and Persians in 539 B.C.

### Theme and Purpose

- Daniel was written to encourage the exiled Jews by revealing God's sovereign program for Israel during and after the period of gentile domination.
- Daniel repeatedly emphasizes the sovereignty and power of God over human affairs.
- The God who directs the forces of history has not deserted His people.

### Survey of Daniel

#### Chapter 1

- The **Personal History** of Daniel
- The **Deportation** of Daniel to Babylon 1:1-7
- The **Faithfulness** of Daniel in Babylon 1:8-16
- The **Reputation** of Daniel in Babylon 1:17-21

#### Chapters 2-7

- Describe the future course of the gentile world powers.

#### Chapters 8-12

- Describe the future of the Jewish nation under gentile dominion.

**The World** - This refers to the sinful systems, values, and influences of society that go against God's ways. It's not about people but about worldly mindsets that promote pride, greed, selfishness, and a rejection of God.

**The Flesh** - This is our sinful nature—the part of us that desires things contrary to God's will. It's the internal struggle with temptation, selfishness, and the tendency to prioritize our wants over what's right.

**The Devil** - Satan, the real spiritual enemy, works to deceive, tempt, and oppose God's plans. His goal is to lead people away from God through lies, distractions, and spiritual warfare.

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**Main Idea:** Succeeding faithfully when you're not in control.

Our relationship with God should \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives.

Daniel's story shows us some fears and risks that can keep us from remaining faithful in difficult circumstances:

- \_\_\_\_\_ authority
- \_\_\_\_\_ advancement
- Severe \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ alternatives
- Lack of \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ with God

So how do we remain faithful when so many things are out of our control?

- Be \_\_\_\_\_ in your heart
- Be \_\_\_\_\_ in your solutions
- Be \_\_\_\_\_ in your timeline

**James 3:17 NLT**

\_\_\_\_\_ can over come any \_\_\_\_\_.

God-honoring convictions bring God-given rewards.