

The Book of Daniel

11

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we begin reading the book of **Daniel**, focusing on **chapters 1-6**.

This is a unique book. It is partly written as a personal history of events that took place during the exile of Judah, under the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar (of Babylon), and Cyrus and Darius (of Persia). But much of the book is written as a record of apocalyptic visions, detailing events that would take place in Daniel's future.

Little is known of Daniel outside of the book attributed to him. He is referred to in two places in the rest of Scripture:

- By Ezekiel – **Ezekiel 14:14,20** and **28:3**
- By Jesus – **Matthew 24:15**

Ezekiel was a contemporary of Daniel and probably had met him personally. Ezekiel's references to Daniel show how widely known he was in the Jewish community of his day. From the record of Scripture and of Josephus, it is likely that Daniel was descended from one of the aristocratic families of Judah, and may have even been of royal blood (note **1:3-4**). He was selected on the basis of his intelligence and aptitude to be trained for service in the royal court of Nebuchadnezzar, and this service passed over into the Persian court when the Medes and Persians conquered Babylon.

Daniel 1-6 can be broken down into the follow discrete stories:

- **Chapter 1** – The dietary testing of Daniel and his friends
- **Chapter 2** – The interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream
- **Chapter 3** – The golden image and the fiery furnace
- **Chapter 4** – Nebuchadnezzar's debasement
- **Chapter 5** – The writing on the wall and the fall of Babylon
- **Chapter 6** – The conspiracy against Daniel and the lion's den

Let's now read the first section of **Daniel** – **chapters 1-6**.

Memory Verse

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Isaiah 55:6-7

Your Fishing Kit

This is the eleventh passage in your fishing kit. **Isaiah 55:6-7** describes the response a person should have when they realize that their sin has separated them from God. And what is the response from God when we turn to the Lord? He extends his mercy and his pardon. How incredible our God is!

Here are the other verses in your "fishing kit":

John 3:16	Isaiah 55:6-7	John 1:12	2 Corinthians 5:17
John 3:18	Romans 5:8	John 3:3	2 Corinthians 5:21
John 3:36	1 John 4:10	John 5:24	Matthew 10:32-33
Ephesians 1:7-8	Acts 2:38	John 6:37	Romans 2:4-5
Romans 3:23	Acts 3:19	John 8:32	Acts 17:30
Romans 6:23	Acts 4:12	John 8:36	1 John 5:10
Isaiah 53:5	John 14:6	John 10:10	1 John 5:11-12
Isaiah 53:6	1 John 1:8	John 10:28	John 14:1-3
Isaiah 59:1-2	1 John 1:9	Romans 10:9	John 16:33
Isaiah 64:6	1 John 1:10	Romans 10:13	Revelation 3:20

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an "on the tip of your tongue" familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.