

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Daniel

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1:1-21

Background: The first part of the Book of Daniel (chapters 1–6) is a narrative about Daniel and his friends. They were young men from Jerusalem who were taken to Babylon as prisoners. These chapters tell how they were faithful to Yahweh while living in a pagan land serving a pagan king. And it tells how God rewarded them because they were faithful.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Daniel and his three friends were chosen to serve Nebuchadnezzar because they were young men without blemish, attractive in appearance, having insight in all wisdom, filled with knowledge and understanding, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. [1:1-4]
- ☐ Daniel and his friends trained in the literature and language of the Chaldeans. [1:5]
- ☐ Daniel and his Jewish friends decided not to pollute themselves with the king's special food and wine. [1:8]
- ☐ After a ten-day trial period of eating only vegetables and drinking water, Daniel and his three friends appeared healthier and better nourished than the other young men in the king's service. [1:9-16]
- ☐ God gave Daniel and his young friends great knowledge and insight to serve the king of Babylon. [1:17-21]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. When did Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, come to Jerusalem to surround the city and cut off all supplies to it? [1:1]
Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem in the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah.
2. Who gave Nebuchadnezzar victory over Jehoiakim king of Judah? [1:2]
The Lord gave Nebuchadnezzar victory over Jehoiakim.
3. What did the king tell Ashpenaz to do? [1:3]
The king told Ashpenaz to bring in some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility.
4. What kind of young men did the king want to be brought into Babylon? [1:4]
The king wanted young men without blemish, attractive in appearance, skillful in all wisdom, filled with knowledge and understanding, and qualified to serve in the king's palace.
5. What were these young men to be fed? [1:5]
They were to be fed a daily portion of the king's delicacies and some of the king's wine.
6. What were the names of some of these young men from Israel, and what names were they given by the chief official? [1:6-7]
Their names were Daniel called Belteshazzar, Hananiah called Shadrach, Mishael called Meshach, and Azariah called Abednego.
7. Why do you think Daniel decided not to eat the king's food or drink his wine? [1:8]
They would pollute him if he ate and drank them.

Daniel 1:1-21 continued

8. What was the attitude of the chief official toward Daniel? [1:9]
The chief official favored and respected Daniel.
9. What did the chief official believe would happen if Daniel did not eat the food the king provided for him? [1:10]
The chief official believed he might be killed if Daniel looked worse than the other men his age.
10. What did Daniel tell the chief official's steward to do for ten days? [1:11-13]
Daniel told the steward to test them for ten days by giving them only vegetables and water and then comparing them to the others afterwards.
11. After ten days, how did Daniel and his three friends appear? [1:14-15]
At the end of ten days, they appeared healthier and better nourished than all the young men who ate the king's delicacies.
12. What kind of knowledge and insight did God give to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah? [1:17]
God made them able to know and understand all literature and wisdom, and Daniel could understand all kinds of visions and dreams.
13. When the king questioned Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, how did they compare to everyone else? [1:19-20]
The king found them ten times wiser, and they understood ten times more than all the magicians and those who claimed to speak with the dead.
14. How long did Daniel serve in the king's palace? [1:21]
Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Comment Section:

2:39-47

Background: King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that terrified him. None of the magicians and sorcerers in Babylon could interpret the dream except Daniel. Daniel told the king that the mystery the king had asked about could only be revealed to Nebuchadnezzar by the God who lives in the heavens.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ After telling the king of Babylon what he dreamed, Daniel gave the king God's interpretation of the dream. [2:31-45]
- ☐ The king dreamed about a great statue made out of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay, and a great stone that destroyed the statue. Each part of the statue represented a kingdom. [2:39-45]
- ☐ King Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold. All the other kingdoms in the dream were kingdoms that came after him. [2:36-40]
- ☐ The stone that destroyed the statue was a kingdom set up by God, a kingdom that would never be destroyed. [2:44-45]
- ☐ The king honored Daniel and his God for telling the dream and its interpretation. [2:46-47]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What kind of kingdom would come after the king who had the dream of a statue? [2:39]
An inferior kingdom.
2. How was the fourth kingdom described? [2:40]
The fourth kingdom would be strong as iron.
3. What were the feet and toes of the statue made of? [2:41]
The feet and toes were partly made of baked clay and partly made of iron.
4. Why do you think the fourth kingdom was described as iron and clay? [2:41-43]
Just as iron does not mix with clay, the fourth kingdom would be divided and would not stay together.
5. What would God do in the days of those kings? [2:44]
The God of heaven would set up a kingdom that would never be destroyed or conquered.
6. What broke the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold into pieces? [2:45]
A stone was cut out of the mountain but not by human hands.
7. Why do you think King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face after Daniel gave him God's interpretation of the king's dream? [2:46-47]
He realized that Daniel's God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and the one who reveals mysteries.

Comment Section:

3:16-30

Background: King Nebuchadnezzar had a gold statue erected on the Plain of Dura, and he ordered all his government officials to come to the dedication of the statue. In the ancient Near East, refusing to worship the king was a sign of rebellion against the king. It was often considered the crime of treason. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship the new idol, it was a serious crime.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to serve the gods of King Nebuchadnezzar or bow to his statue. [3:16-18]
- ☐ The king was so angry that he heated the furnace of fire seven times hotter than usual and had Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego bound and thrown into the fire. [3:19-23]
- ☐ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were joined by a fourth man like a son of the gods walking around in the middle of the fire completely unharmed until the king told them to come out. [3:24-27]
- ☐ King Nebuchadnezzar praised the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and made a decree that anyone who spoke against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would be torn apart and their homes would be destroyed. [3:28-30]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego say that God could do if the king threw them in the furnace of fire? [3:16-17]
They told King Nebuchadnezzar that God could save them from the furnace of fire and could rescue them from the king's hand.
2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego told the king that even if God did not save them from the king's fire, they were still never going to do what? [3:18]
They told the king that they would never serve his gods or bow down to his statue.
3. Why do you think the look on the king's face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? [3:18-19]
He was filled with rage towards Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego after they told him that they would never serve his gods or worship his statue.
4. What happened to the strong men who were commanded to throw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the very hot furnace of fire? [3:20-22]
The fire was so hot that it killed the men who took Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to the furnace.
5. What was done to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego before they fell into the furnace of fire? [3:20-23]
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were tied up while still wearing their robes, tunics, turbans, and other clothing.

Daniel 3:16-30 continued

6. What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do once they were inside the furnace of fire? [3:24-25]
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walked around in the fire along with a fourth man who, according to the king, looked like a son of the gods.
7. How do you think the governors and counselors who saw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew that the fire did not harm them? [3:25-27]
They were not hurt, their hair was not singed, their robes were not harmed, they had no smell of fire on them, and they were walking around in the fire.
8. What was the first thing King Nebuchadnezzar said about the God who saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the furnace of fire? [3:28]
The king told everyone to praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who sent his messenger to save them.
9. According to the king's decree, what would happen to anyone from any people, nation, or language who spoke against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? [3:29]
They must be torn apart, and their houses must be made into rubbish heaps.
10. What did the king do with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego after they were saved from the furnace of fire? [3:30]
The king caused Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to prosper in the province of Babylon.

Comment Section:

5:1-12

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ When Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his noblemen, he and his guests drank wine from gold and silver containers that Nebuchadnezzar his father took from the temple in Jerusalem. They praised their gods and idols. [5:1-4]
- ☐ During Belshazzar's feast, a hand appeared and wrote on the wall of the palace. The king became very frightened and called for his wise men and astrologers. He promised a great reward to anyone who could read the writing on the wall and interpret it. None of the king's wise men could read or interpret the writing. [5:5-9]
- ☐ The queen came to the banquet house and told Belshazzar about Daniel. The queen said that Daniel had a spirit of the holy gods in him. Daniel had wisdom and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems. Daniel would be able to read and interpret the handwriting on the wall for the king. [5:10-12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. For whom did Belshazzar, the king, make a great feast? [5:1]
He made a great feast for a thousand of his noblemen.
2. Belshazzar gave orders to have gold and silver containers be brought to the feast so that his noblemen, wives, and concubines could drink from them. Where did these containers of gold and silver come from? [5:2-3]
The king's father, Nebuchadnezzar, had brought the containers from the temple, the house of God, in Jerusalem.
3. What did Belshazzar, his noblemen, his wives, and his concubines do as they drank wine from the containers of gold and silver from the house of God in Jerusalem? [5:3-4]
They praised their idols made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.
4. What appeared in front of the lampstand and wrote on the plaster wall in the king's palace? [5:5]
The fingers of a human hand appeared.
5. List four things that happened to the king when he saw the hand as it wrote on the wall. [5:6]
The king's face changed, his thoughts frightened him, his limbs could not support him, and his knees knocked together.
6. Who did the king bring in to give an interpretation of what the hand wrote on the wall? [5:7]
The king called for those who claimed to speak with the dead, the educated men, and the astrologers — the wise men of Babylon.
7. What three things did the king promise to give to whoever interpreted the writing? [5:7]
The king promised to clothe them with purple, have a gold chain put around their neck, and give them the authority of the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 5:1-12 continued

8. Why do you think King Belshazzar became greatly alarmed and the look on his face changed? [5:8-9]
None of the wise men of Babylon could read the writing or make known its interpretation.
9. Who came into the banquet house because of what the king and his nobles had said? [5:10]
The queen came into the banquet house.
10. How did the queen describe the qualities that the king's father found in Daniel? [5:11-12]
Daniel was a man who had the spirit of the holy gods. He had in him light, understanding, and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods. He also had an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, and the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems.
11. Why do you think the queen told the king to bring Daniel in? [5:12]
He would be able to interpret the writing on the wall.

Comment Section:

6:15-23

Background: Daniel was one of the three chief administrators in the kingdom of Darius. The other administrators did not like Daniel and had Darius issue a law that said anyone who prayed to a god other than King Darius would be thrown into a den of lions.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The men who plotted to have Daniel thrown into the lion's den succeeded in doing so. King Darius could not rescue Daniel from them without breaking the law of the Medes and Persians. [6:15-16]
- ☐ The king told Daniel of his hope that Daniel's God would rescue him from the lions. After a sleepless night of fasting, the king went to the lion's den at daybreak and rejoiced to learn that Daniel's God had sent a messenger to protect him from the lions. [6:16-23]
- ☐ Daniel was saved and unharmed because he trusted in his God. [6:23]

Part 2

1. What did the men who plotted against Daniel tell King Darius so that he would send Daniel to the den of lions? [6:15]
They told him that the law of the Medes and Persians would not allow anyone to change a prohibition or statute that had been given by the king.
2. Why do you think the king said to Daniel after he was thrown into the lion's den, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you"? [6:16]
The king did not want Daniel to be harmed.
3. What did the king and his nobles do to ensure that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel? [6:17]
The king and his nobles used their signet rings to seal the stone that was brought over the entrance to the lion's den.
4. What did the king do during his sleepless night? [6:18]
The king fasted and was not entertained.
5. What did the king do as soon as it was daybreak? [6:19-20]
The king hurried to the lion's den and called out to Daniel to see if Daniel's God had saved him from the lions.
6. When Daniel answered the king, what were the reasons he told the king why God sent his messenger and shut the lions' mouths? [6:21-22]
Daniel was blameless and had done no harm to the king.
7. Why do you think Daniel was not harmed? [6:23]
Because he trusted in his God.

Comment Section:

7:9-14

Background: In the first year of Belshazzar, king of Babylonia, Daniel had a dream that terrified him.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ As part of Daniel's dream and night visions, he saw the Ancient of Days seated on his throne amongst fire and millions of servants. Books were opened and court was in session. [7:9-10]
- ☐ Daniel watched while the animal with the boastful horn was destroyed. The other animals lost their authority to rule but were allowed to live for a while longer. [7:11-12]
- ☐ In his visions, Daniel saw someone like a son of man come to the Ancient of Days. The son of man was given everlasting authority to rule over the nations so that everyone should serve him. [7:13-14]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. As Daniel looked, who sat on one of the thrones that were set in place? [7:9]
The Ancient of Days took his seat.
2. What color was the clothing of the Ancient of Days? [7:9]
It was as white as snow.
3. What was said to be "like pure wool"? [7:9]
The hair of the Ancient of Days' head.
4. List three things that were described as 'fire' in the scene of the Ancient of Days. [7:9-10]
His throne was flames of fire, the wheels of the throne were burning fire, and a river of fire flowed out before him.
5. How many served and stood before the Ancient of Days? [7:10]
Millions served him; one hundred million were standing before him.
6. What was in session and what was opened during that session? [7:10]
The court was in session and the books were opened.
7. What happened to the animal with the horn that spoke boastful words? [7:11]
It was killed, its body was destroyed, and it was given over to be burned up.
8. What happened to the other three animals that Daniel saw in his visions? [7:12]
Their authority to rule was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a time.
9. When Daniel saw one like the son of man come to the Ancient of Days, how did he come? [7:13]
He came with the clouds of heaven.

Daniel 7:9-14 continued

10. List three things that were given to the son of man. [7:14]
Everlasting authority to rule, glory, and royal power were given to him.
11. Why do you think these things were given to the one like a son of man? [7:14]
They were given to him so that all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him.
12. How long will the authority and kingdom of the one like a son of man last? [7:14]
His everlasting authority will not pass away; his kingdom will never be destroyed.

Comment Section:

9:20-24

Background: Daniel read in the writings of Jeremiah the prophet that there would be seventy years until Jerusalem's desolation would end. Daniel knew that seventy years had passed, so he prayed to Yahweh and confessed the sin of the people of Israel.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ While Daniel prayed and confessed his sin and the sin of his people Israel, Gabriel came to give Daniel understanding, insight, and revelation. [9:20-23]
- ☐ Gabriel told Daniel what would happen during a period of 'seventy sevens.' [9:24]

Part 2

1. What was Daniel doing before Gabriel came to meet him? [9:20]
Daniel was praying out loud, confessing his sin and the sin of his people Israel, and making requests to God on behalf of God's holy mountain.
2. Was this Daniel's first time to see Gabriel? [9:21]
No, Daniel had seen Gabriel in a previous vision.
3. What time did Gabriel appear to Daniel? [9:21]
Gabriel appeared to Daniel at the time of the evening sacrifice.
4. What did Gabriel come to give to Daniel? [9:22]
Understanding and insight were given.
5. When was the order given to Gabriel to come to Daniel and give him the answer to his prayers? [9:23]
The order was given when Daniel began presenting his humble requests.
6. According to Gabriel, seventy sevens are decreed for God's people and for the holy city to do what? [9:24]
It was to end the guilt and put an end to sin, atone for wickedness, bring everlasting righteousness, carry out the vision and the prophecy, and consecrate the most holy place.

Comment Section:

12:1-13

Background: An angel came to Daniel and told him what would happen in the future.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Daniel learned about a time of great trouble that would come. Anyone whose name is found in the book will be saved. Some people will rise up from sleeping in the earth's dust, either to everlasting life or to everlasting shame. Daniel is told to close and seal his book until the time of the end. [12:1-4]
- ☐ Daniel saw two more individuals standing on each side of the river. One told the other how long it would be until the end of these events. Daniel asked them about the outcome of these events. Daniel was told that the words were sealed until the time of the end and was told what would happen to him. [12:5-13]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who is the great prince who guarded Daniel's people? [12:1]
Michael guarded his people.
2. How bad or difficult was the time of trouble that would come? [12:1]
There had never been anything like it since the beginning of any nation until that time.
3. What would happen to those whose name is found written in the book? [12:1]
Those people would be saved.
4. What would happen to many of those who 'sleep' in the dust of the earth? [12:2]
Some would rise up to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
5. To what were those people who turned many other people to righteousness compared? [12:3]
They were like stars forever and ever.
6. What was Daniel told to do with his book? [12:4]
Close it up and seal it until the time of the end.
7. What would happen with knowledge? [12:4]
Knowledge would increase.
8. When Daniel saw two more individuals, where were they? [12:5]
One was on each bank of the river.
9. What did one of these individuals ask the other? [12:6-7]
How long it would be until the end of these amazing events.

Daniel 12:1-13 continued

10. How long did the man who was upstream and clothed in linen swear that the time would be? [12:7]
It would be for a time, times, and half a time.
11. When would all these things be completed? [12:7]
When they finished shattering the power of the holy people.
12. Did Daniel understand what the two men were saying about the outcome of these events? [12:8]
Daniel heard what they said, but did not understand, so he asked them about it.
13. Instead of answering Daniel's question, what was Daniel told? [12:9]
Daniel was told to go his way because the words were shut up and sealed until the time of the end.
14. Many would be purified, cleansed, and refined, but what of the wicked people? [12:10]
Wicked people would act wickedly and would not understand.
15. How much time would there be from the time that an end was put to the regular burnt offering and the abomination that causes complete desolation was set up? [12:11]
1,290 days.
16. What was said about the one who waits until the end of the 1,335 days? [12:12]
That person was blessed.
17. Daniel was told again to go his way. What would become of him? [12:13]
He would "rest," meaning he would die. Then he would rise in a place assigned to him at the end of days.

Comment Section: