

# Lesson 10: The Prophet Daniel

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Learn about Daniel the prophet who was taken to Babylon as a young captive.
- 2) See that Daniel was humble, courageous and went to God to get the answers.
- 3) Understand that the prophecies and interpretations that Daniel gave pointed to Christ and were fulfilled.

**Accommodations:** How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

## Supplies:

### Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Lesson Review Visual Aids – one for teacher to share at the beginning of each class
- Prophets Timeline Chart – one per student to keep in class for duration of lessons
- Prophets Timeline Chart Answer Key – one for teacher
- Daniels Visions Color Page/Questions – one per student
- Daniels Visions Color Page/Questions Answer Key – one for teacher
- Daniel Empires Map – one per student

### Optional:

- Storybook or visuals to show students if available

### Snack:

- Fruit shaped like rocks enough to share
- Napkins one per student
- Water/Cup one per student

## Lesson:

### 1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Take attendance.

\*Have Bibles for those who need them and Lesson Review Visual Aid Sheet to show students.

Show the lesson review visual aid sheet.

**Can anyone remember what we have studied so far? Look at each picture, name what happened for the lesson we have already studied, and what we learned from that lesson.**

**Lesson 1:** The prophets were those that spoke the word of God. They spoke to bring the people back to God and taught about Jesus. There are many prophets in the Old Testament all are important.

**Lesson 2:** Elijah was cared for by God through the ravens and widow and Elijah stood up for God when he opposed the false prophets of Baal. We learned that God is the Only True God.



**Lesson 3:** Elisha received a double portion because of his boldness and willingness to serve God. Because of God Elisha helped a widow, stopped the Syrian army, and raised a boy from the dead. We learned that God is powerful and willing to provide.

**Lesson 4:** Jonah disobeyed God when told to go warn the Ninevites. After a storm and being rescued by a fish that God provided, Jonah obeyed but still did not want God to be merciful to the Ninevites even though Jonah enjoyed God's mercy for himself. We learn that God is forgiving and loving and willing to give second chances.

**Lesson 5:** Amos and Hosea were two prophets sent to preach to wicked Israel. Hosea married a woman who did not love him back to show the sad relationship the Israelites had with God. Amos told the people that God expects justice and righteousness and that the people (and us) are to respect and care for others in need.

**Lesson 6:** Joel and Micah were two prophets that preached to Judah. Joel warned the people that God uses natural calamities to encourage ungodly people to repent and turn to Him when he sent the locusts. Micah taught that God is merciful but expects us to be merciful as well and help the poor and needy.

**Lesson 7:** Isaiah was a faithful prophet who listed many prophecies concerning Jesus, all of which came true. Isaiah spoke that God is able to save and willing to suffer to redeem His people.

**Lesson 8:** Jeremiah continued to speak God's message that the people needed to turn back to God even though no one would listen. He spoke to Judah in the last decades before Babylon destroyed the nation. We learned that we can and need to stand up for God even when we are young.

**Lesson 9:** Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah were three prophets who warned the people to repent. They were the last prophets, along with Jeremiah, who spoke against Judah, Assyria, and Babylon before the destruction of Judah.

## **2) Daniel - the Predictive Prophet - Nebuchadnezzar's Dream**

**20-25 minutes**

**Optional:** Have visual aids ready to show students if available

**Say: Today we will learn about another of the Major Prophets, Daniel. How many of you have heard of the prophet Daniel?** Let students raise hands.

**What do you know about Daniel?** Let students answer. Possibilities include – Daniel being saved from lions, Daniel's prayer life – always praying three times a day, Daniel and his friends who were taken to Babylonian captivity as young men, Daniel interpreting dreams, Daniel and his friends not eating the food of the King so as not to sin against God, etc.

**Today we are going to focus on Daniel's interpretation of a dream and a vision that predicted rulers, kingdoms, and the coming of Christ's final kingdom which we have today.**

**Let's all turn to Daniel Chapter 1.** Help students as needed.

**We are going to study Daniel and Ezekiel – both of whom were taken captive from Judah to Babylon during the 70 year exile that God foretold would happen to the Southern Kingdom because of the nation's disobedience. Some interesting facts about Ezekiel and Daniel:**

**Although he was a captive in Babylon, Daniel became prime minister in the government there. Daniel lived a life of obedience, even when he was faced with pressure from others.**

**The two books are the main sources of information about life during the captivity. The prophets guided and encouraged the captives to turn back to God. The Jews lived nearly normal lives in Babylon. They were not enslaved or persecuted. They could marry, meet, build homes, have jobs**

**and as seen in Daniel – even rise to positions of high authority. Ezekiel and Daniel were two faithful prophets during this time of captivity.**

Read **Daniel 1:1-7, 18-21**

**What happened in these verses?** Judah was taken captive and Daniel and a few others were taken to be trained by the Babylonians to serve in the palace.

**What was the result of the king's interview?** He found Daniel and his friends 10 times better than any of the magicians/astrologers who were in his kingdom.

Read **Daniel 2:1-11**

**Who had the dream?** King Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonians

**What did he want the wise men to do?** Interpret the dream without being told what the dream was.

**What did the magicians and others say?** Tell us the dream so we can interpret it.

**How was this wise of the king to not say what the dream was?** Because then he would know who really could interpret dreams and was truly wise. If you tell someone your dream, they can make up something to say what it meant. If you don't even tell them the dream – they would have to have supernatural powers to be able to know what the dream was and how to interpret it. Daniel asked God to help and God, with His supernatural powers, was able to tell Daniel what the dream was and the meaning.

**What did the king accuse them of in verse 9?** Being willful liars who were deceiving him.

**What did the magicians admit in verse 11?** No one on earth can read the mind of another, only a being that is supernatural. We cannot know the thoughts and dreams of others and neither can anyone on earth – only God!

Read **Daniel 2:12-19, 23-30**

**How did Daniel learn of the interpretation?** God told him in a night vision.

**What did Daniel do when God helped him?** Gave God praise and thanksgiving

**When Daniel told the king, who did he give credit too?** God!

**We need to be like Daniel and remember that any gift, blessing, or talent we have is because God has given it to us. Daniel was wise because God had blessed him and Daniel dedicated himself to God with his talent. Daniel could not interpret the dream, he acknowledged that only God could and did. It is not us or our talents – it is God working in us and through us and for us that gives us all the gifts, talents and blessings we enjoy. Let's remember to be humble like Daniel and always give God the glory and praise for what we have and enjoy.**

Read **Daniel 2:31-35 (Show visual aid)**

**What was the dream?** An image made of gold, silver, bronze, iron and clay was struck by a rock made without hands that crushed all the pieces together and that rock became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.



**Now let's read what the dream meant:**

Read **Daniel 2:36-49**

**What were the different materials in the image to represent?** Different kingdoms.

**Who was the head of gold?** King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon

**How strong were the remaining kingdoms of the image?** Not as strong, they would get weaker as they went to the point that the last kingdom would be part iron and clay (dried mud).

**How many kingdoms in the image were there?** 4

**What was the final kingdom, the rock?** The kingdom of God through Christ.

We see that the stone was cut without hands – meaning no human origin – it came from God. The image/statue is seen as one unit until the stone knocks the kingdoms and breaks them apart. The unity of the image is the worldly kingdoms ungodly stance towards God until God smashes them to pieces.

How long will God's kingdom last? Forever!

The interpretation of the dream not only predicted 4 kingdoms, each getting weaker than Babylonian empire, but more importantly, it predicted when Jesus would come. During the time of the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom, which was the Roman empire – just as God had said!

Read verse 37 again, who gave Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian kingdom? God!

God controls the world, He raises up and takes down kingdoms, empires, rulers, and governments as He determines. God is in control. There are no self-made people who have “earned” or “won” their way to the top. As we said earlier – everything we have been blessed with comes from God.

### 3) Daniel Empires Map

5-10 minutes

I am going to hand out an activity sheet to everyone. Hand out pencils and a sheet to everyone who needs them.

Say: If the Babylonians were the first kingdom in the image and then there were three others, until God's kingdom would come – it would be easy to tell what the other 3 kingdoms would be – the next three kingdoms that ruled after Babylon.

Show each kingdom on the map as you discuss them.

We know from history that after the Babylonians, the next empire or kingdom was the Medo-Persians, followed by Greece, followed by Rome. Rome was in power when Jesus was born and during the time Jesus began and completed His ministry on earth establishing the kingdom of God forever. So we know for sure that the 4 kingdoms God revealed were the Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Grecians, and Romans. Even in the book of Daniel, it tells of Daniel predicting and living through the time of Babylon being overtaken by the Medo-Persians.

What were the different kingdoms? Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome

What were the different materials in the image? Gold, silver, bronze, iron mixed with clay.

Go through the maps showing the 4 different empires starting with Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and then Rome. Next, have students write the name of the empire beside the correct portion of the statue. Starting at the top of image with the gold head being Babylon.

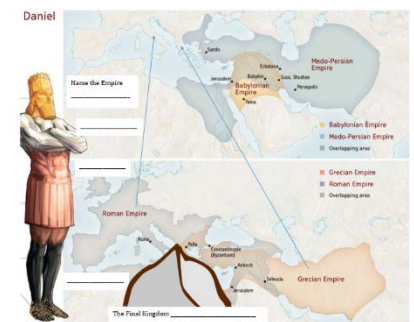
Answers are from top to bottom:

Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and finally – Kingdom of Christ/God

### 4) Daniel's Vision of Future Rulers After Fall of Judah

10-15 minutes

Now we will look at a vision Daniel was given by God to show again that the four kingdoms represented in the image of gold, silver, bronze, iron and clay were the four earthly empires we just looked at on the maps. This time in Daniel chapter 7, God focuses on the last empire – Rome. And, shows the conflict that occurred between the Romans and Christians. This chapter, like the one we just read, also predicts that God would send Christ to rule forever and conquer the worldly kingdoms. God focuses this chapter on foretelling that one of Rome's rulers would persecute the church. We aren't going to spend time on all the various details of this chapter but just the main points of whom the vision represented and what that means for us.



Read **Daniel 7:1-5**

**So far we see two kingdoms represented by two animals – Babylon the lion that was tamed and conquered, and Medo-Persia, the bear that kept devouring different nations as it went about conquering.**

Read **Daniel 7:6-7**

**What were the next two beasts? A leopard with four heads and a 10 horned beast.**

**The next two beasts are a leopard with four heads – this is Greece which was separated into four segments after Alexander the Great died. The last fourth beast with the horns and teeth of iron represented Rome. The horns represented different kings/rulers during the reign of Rome.**

Read **Daniel 7:8, 11-18, 23**

**Daniel’s vision predicts the next 4 world empires and the coming of Christ’s kingdom.**

**What, in verses 17 and 23, did the beasts represent? Four kings/empires.**

**What would happen at the end of the fourth empire? The saints (Christians) would receive the kingdom, which is true today thanks to Christ coming to earth and raising from the dead to become the ruler of the spiritual kingdom that reigns forever!**

**We see in the New Testament that Paul, speaking to the church of the Ephesians, tells us we are saints and part of the household of God, thanks to Christ. Christ is the stone, the cornerstone that allows us all to be built into the kingdom of God:**

**Ephesians 2:18-20**

*For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,*

**What does this show us for our lives today? God’s word is perfect, true, understandable and trustworthy. Hundreds of years before the latter empires existed, God predicted them, predicted their behaviors, the rulers, and their destruction. God also shows us His power – He rules over all. God is in control and is worthy of praise and trust. We can’t rely on nations, peoples or governments, but we can definitely rely on God and Jesus. This also shows that we are part of God’s kingdom today – we aren’t waiting for a kingdom to come, it is already here! And those who believe, are baptized and remain true to God are part of this wonderful kingdom. We wait for the end of the world, the judgment and the time to spend eternity in heaven, but we are not waiting for God’s kingdom to come sometime in the future. Daniel tells us, and as does the New Testament, that the kingdom of God would come during the time of Christ, the time of Rome the 4<sup>th</sup> and last empire. It came and we can be part of it today and be members of the household of God – God’s children!**

## 5) Daniel World Empires and Four Beasts Color Page

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student along with pencils. Read the directions aloud, help as needed and let them fill in the blanks and draw a line to each correct answer. Have students color the image with the correct colors – gold, silver, bronze, iron/clay.

**Answers are on the Teacher Answer Key.**

When done ask:

**Who were the four earthly empires? Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome**

**Who would destroy them? God through Christ.**

**Nebuchadnezzar's Dream**  
*(From Part 2, Daniel 2:1-4)*

Gold, Babylon  
Silver, Medo-Persia  
Bronze, Greece  
Iron and Clay, Rome

Stone cut without human hands  
Anvil  
Hammer or great mallet

REIGN OF GOD

Daniel Chapter 2 & 7 - Nebuchadnezzar's Dream & The Vision of Four Beasts	
Match the Name of the Animal To the Empire	
10 Horned Beast:	Greece
Bear:	Babylon
Lion:	Rome
Leopard:	Medo-Persia

What is the Rock that Smashes the Mountain?

On the left, put the times of the Empires on the correct lines.

605 - 539 BC
539 - 333 BC
331 - 48 BC
64 - 290 AD
33 AD - to Present

**Who can be part of the kingdom of God?** The saints – those who believe, obey, and remain faithful to God.

**When did God’s kingdom through Christ, begin?** During the time of his ministry during the Roman Empire.

**Who truly rules the nations, governments, kings and leaders?** God/Christ.

**How can we be humble, faithful and helpful like Daniel?** Give glory to God, help others learn about God’s message, pray to God, etc.

## 6) Optional – the Fall of Babylon Comes True

5 minutes

\*If time and if desired you can read of the Babylonian kingdom ending and the Medo-Persians taking over during the time of Daniel.

**Next we will read of the kingdom of Babylon actually falling to the Medo-Persians. Belshazzar the co-regent king after Nebuchadnezzar was having a party using God’s holy cups from the temple to drink from. God is not pleased with Belshazzar’s ungodly attitude and sends a warning to Belshazzar that Daniel needs to interpret. By the end of that night. Belshazzar is dead and the Medo-Persians take over. God is always right!**

**Read Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14 – Say: Now Daniel will give the interpretation of the words written by the hand.**

Read **Daniel 5:22-30** – the fall of the Babylonians – just as God foretold!

**In verse 28, whom did Daniel say would take over the Babylonians?** The Medes and the Persians.

**What happened to Belshazzar?** He was killed just as God said would happen.

**So we see from this that the image that Nebuchadnezzar had seen was already coming to pass.**

**After the gold head of the Babylonians, the silver chest of the image was now to rule – the Medo-Persian Empire.**

## 7) Prophets Timeline

5 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student. You will gather them up again for later use.

Read through the top part of the sheet showing the prophets of the Divided Kingdoms of Israel and Judah.

Ask them:

**What time did Zephaniah, Nahum, and Habakkuk preach?** During the end of Judah and its captivity.

**What did we learn last time about them?** See Teacher Answer Key

**What can we fill in under Daniel for major events?** See Teacher Answer Key

**What did we see in today’s lesson about the power of God?** See Teacher Answer Key

Prophet	Chronological Period	Bible Books
Isaiah	750-700 BC	Isaiah
Jeremiah	626-586 BC	Jeremiah, Lamentations
Ezekiel	605-593 BC	Ezekiel
Hosea	750-700 BC	Hosea
Amos	750-700 BC	Amos
Jonah	750-700 BC	Jonah
Micah	750-700 BC	Micah
Nahum	626-586 BC	Nahum
Zephaniah	626-586 BC	Zephaniah
Habakkuk	626-586 BC	Habakkuk
Daniel	605-562 BC	Daniel
Zechariah	520-480 BC	Zechariah
Haggai	520-480 BC	Haggai
Ezra	475-400 BC	Ezra
Nehemiah	475-400 BC	Nehemiah
Malachi	475-400 BC	Malachi

**God is all powerful, all knowing and everlasting. When He says something will happen – it will! The Bible is proven to be real, trustworthy and accurate because the predictions made by Daniel were made hundreds and hundreds of years before Jesus ever came to earth and before the other three empires had even begun. Yet the prediction and interpretations were real, accurate and exact. We can trust God and we can trust the Bible.**

**Next week we will study Ezekiel and finish up the time of Judah’s captivity in Babylon.**

Help students fill in or draw correct events they remember of today’s account.

Put sheets away and keep for next week.

\*\*\*Encourage students to read **Ezekiel** during the week on their own to be prepared for next time.

## 8) Learning from the Time of the Prophets

5 minutes

Say:

**What did we learn today?** Let students answer.

**What do you think of Daniel's humbleness and faithfulness to God?**

Optional questions to ask:

**What did you like best about today's Bible lesson?**

**What questions do you have about today's lesson?**

## 9) Learning the Prophets Through Song

5-10 minutes

Sing the Old Testament books to the tune of the Alphabet song. "Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers" (A,B,C,D,E,F,G)... you will have to repeat the alphabet tune twice to get through all the books.

When you get to Song of Solomon, that is when the alphabet tune starts again, that is where you will start each week, even though Song of Solomon is not a prophet book.

**Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.**

Repeat this section 2 times each week as a way to practice learning. Encourage students to practice at home as well. You may even decide to offer a prize or praise for each student who can recite all the books of the prophets from memory as you go through the quarter.

## 10) Optional: Memory Verse

2-5 minutes

For this quarter, each week have the students go to **Hebrews 1:1-2** in their Bibles and read the verse allowed as a class 2 times. Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: "God, who at various times" a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point up when you say "GOD", point to their mouths when they say "SPOKE", etc. and then go through verses as a class with gestures.

### **Hebrews 1:1-2**

*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.*

## 11) Optional - Snack: Fruit Shaped Like Rocks

5 minutes

Ensure you check for allergies first. Fruit will represent the Kingdom of God smashing the four worldly empires from Daniel chapter 5.

Hand out a few pieces to each student and say,

**Let's all remember that God loves us so much He sent His Son. They established an everlasting kingdom that we can be a part of if we believe, obey and trust the Lord. We can be strong, just like Daniel, even though he was young and alone - he remained true to God and did not get caught up in the sins of everyone around him. He remained humble and faithful and gave glory to God.**

**Today we will eat these snacks that are to look like rocks. Why would we have a snack that reminds us of stones or rocks?** To represent the kingdom of God that came and smashed the ungodly kingdoms, etc.

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands if needed. Review with students by asking them questions from the lesson again and discuss any questions they have while snacking. What did they like best about today's Bible reading? What questions do they have about today's lesson? How was God's power shown?

## **12) Close in prayer**

\*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

**Thank You Lord for all You provide us. Thank You for Your Son who has given us Your complete words and will through the Bible. Who obeyed You and died for our sins. Thank you that we can know the Bible is accurate, trustworthy and true. Forgive us when we sin and help us to learn Your words by looking in the Bible. Help us to take the time to devote and dedicate our lives to You, as the prophets did, eager to share Your word with others, for You are worthy, good, awesome and loving towards us. Help us be merciful and forgiving as You are. Keep us humble like Daniel. We pray for those who could not be here today, and pray for those here who have special issues in their life. Be with them, guide, comfort, and bless them. In Jesus' name, amen.**