

The Handwriting on the Wall – Leader’s Guide
Daniel 1 & Chapter 1 - God’s Sovereignty & Daniel’s Commitment

Lesson 1

Background: Dr. Jeremiah writes, “The Hebrew word for Daniel is comprised of two words, *dan* (my judge,) and *el* (God). Therefore, Daniel means ‘God is my judge.’ We know nothing of Daniel’s family or upbringing except that he was from a royal family, He was one of a group of select young men from Judah who was deported to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in the first deportation in 605 B.C. He must have been well educated and trained to have attracted the attention of Nebuchadnezzar’s courtiers.”

Daniel 1 & Chapter 1

In class: turn to pages 4-5 and read last paragraph on page 4 and 1st paragraph on page 5.

1) How is Daniel an example of “how to live today and look at the future with confidence.” Discuss Daniel’s integrity and piety. Is there someone who comes to mind as a person of integrity and piety?

In Class: turn to pages 8-9 and read last paragraph page 8 through middle of page 9.

2) What is the theme of the book of Daniel?

3) In light of God’s sovereignty, power, and past promises fulfilled, how should we as Christians view the future? Are there specific Bible verses which bring you peace and encourage you to trust God? See Luke 21:27-28; Philippians 4:6-7; Romans 8:28-29; Proverbs 3:5-6; 1 Peter 5:7; 1 Corinthians 13:12

Chapter 2

In Class: turn to page 13 and read 2nd paragraph.

Read/Note:

- 2 Chronicles 36:15-17 tells us why the Lord delivered Jerusalem into the hands of the Babylonians. “The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. But they mocked God’s messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy...God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar.”
- Pages 14-15: Read last paragraph into top of page 15.
- As part of the judgement, a remnant of Judah was carried into exile. Daniel 1:6 tells us the Daniel was one of the seventy-some hostages. On page 20, Dr. Jeremiah writes, “The king’s

intention was not just to educate these young men, but to brainwash them. He wanted them to look like Jews on the outside but be Babylonian on the inside.”

In Class: turn to page 20-21 and read last paragraph into 2nd paragraph page 21. Like Daniel, Christians may be called to do hard things rather than blend in.

4) Has there ever been a time when you were asked by an authority, such as a boss or teacher, to compromise or do something which would violate your conscience as a Christian? How did you handle it?

Read/Note: On page 21, Dr. Jeremiah writes, “Someone said that the test of true character is what you do when you know absolutely nobody will find out” and “Daniel had learned that is never right to do wrong in order to do right.”

5) How did Daniel show wisdom in his response to the requirement to eat food forbidden by God?

Read/Note: Daniel understood God’s sovereignty and chose costly obedience over fear.

In class: turn to page 22 and read middle of page to end – “If we want the blessing of God upon our lives...”

Chapter 3

In Class: turn to page 26 and read 2nd, 3rd and 4th paragraphs beginning with “God had been preparing Daniel...”

6) In Daniel 1:8, what word describes Daniel’s actions? Why was he uncompromising?

In Class: turn to page 29 and discuss: Dr. Jeremiah writes, “God will take care of the person who refuses to compromise.” And “Daniel used good judgement by offering an alternative...Instead of rebelling.”

In Class: turn to page 30-31: Dr. Jeremiah writes, “An uncompromising life results in courage” and “There is a kind of quiet power that comes into our lives if we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

7) How can we show courage in a world full of compromise? What does God provide and are actions we can take to strengthen us against compromise? According to Dr. Jeremiah, (pages 33-34), what are the rewards of an uncompromising life?

The Handwriting on the Wall – Leader’s Guide

Lesson 2

Daniel 2-3 & Chapters 4-6 - Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream - Daniel’s Prayer - Faith in the Face of Fire

Daniel 2 & Chapter 4

In Class: turn to page 37 and read 2nd paragraph into 1st sentence of last paragraph.

Read/Note: The theme of Daniel is God’s sovereignty. Daniel 4:25 states “*the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.*” In the past, God used dreams and visions to reveal this truth not only his people but also pagans. We see this in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.

Read/Note: Let’s look at the problem. Daniel 2:1-6 tells us the Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and demanded the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers tell him what his dream was and interpret it or he would have them cut into pieces and their houses turned into piles of rubble.

1) According to the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs on page 44, what did Daniel do and how did he respond to God’s revelation? How does this challenge you to pray and respond to God?

2) On page 45, what are the 5 ‘C’s used to describe Daniel?

- Does this encourage and/or challenge you? In what areas do you wish to grow?

Read/Note: The statue in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream symbolizes four successive empires of the world. Dr. Jeremiah describes these in detail on pages 48-51, and writes, “The dream is the witnessing of the transfer of the world’s power from the Jews to the Gentile rulers. We are living today in the times of the Gentiles. Israel is, to this time, being trodden down by the Gentiles, but there is a time coming, and it may be soon, when God’s focus will again be on Israel.” The four empires of the dream are: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.

In Class: turn to page 47 and read Daniel 2:35. A rock destroys the statue and becomes an indestructible kingdom.

Daniel 2 & Chapter 5

3) On page 55-56, Dr. Jeremiah uses scripture to support the identity of the stone. Who is the stone/rock which destroys all world governments and what does the rock’s filling the whole earth depict? What are the two phases of Christ’s kingdom listed on page 57?

4) What will be the result of the coming of Christ’s kingdom? (see top of page 60) Does this inspire you to pray for the coming of Christ’s kingdom and work toward preparing others for his coming?

Daniel 3 & Chapter 6

In class: On page 63, Dr. Jeremiah writes, "There were somewhere between sixteen and twenty years between the end of Daniel chapter two and the beginning of chapter three." Nebuchadnezzar has now set up an image of gold and attempts to unite his kingdom religiously for his own purposes. All who failed to bow to the idol would be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

5) Review Daniel 3:16-18, (page 69.) How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego respond the king's command and threat of death?

- What does Dr. Jeremiah say gave the three strength to stand against the King (page 69)?
- In what ways are you strengthening your commitment to God and building confidence and courage to stand against evil regardless of the consequences?

In class: turn to page 74 and read 2nd paragraph through the first half page 75 and reflect upon: "He doesn't promise to save us from the fire, but to be with us through the fire. Through it all, God was exalted."

6) Are you more conscious of the Lord's presence during difficult times of your life?

- Have you seen God walk with you during fiery trials?
- How do Romans 5:3-5, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, and Revelation 2:10 encourage you?

The Handwriting on the Wall – Leader’s Guide

Lesson 3

Daniel 4-6 & Chapters 7-9 - Nebuchadnezzar’s Pride – God’s Judgement – Daniel’s Prayer – God’s Purpose

Daniel 4 & Chapter 7

In class: turn to page 78 and read 2nd paragraph through 1st paragraph on page 79.

Read/Note: Sinful pride is self-centered and boastful. Instead of realizing that we are dependent on God, in our pride we ignore God and believe we can get along without Him. A prideful person refuses to see himself as God sees him.

1) When have you have seen the negative aspect of pride surface in your life? Is there a positive side to pride? (See Ecclesiastes 3:22; 1 Corinthians 1:31; 2 Corinthians 7:4.) When have you experienced the positive aspect of pride?

In class: Read Daniel 4:10-17; 4:22; 4:28-31 and 4:34-35

2) List three key elements of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (Daniel 4:10-17.) Who does Daniel say the dream applies to? (Daniel 4:22) According to Daniel 4:28-31 what was Nebuchadnezzar doing when the dream’s fulfillment occurred? What did the king do when his understanding returned? (Daniel 4:34)

3) What statements reveal the lesson of the dream and its fulfillment? (Daniel 4:17, 25, 35) Is this a source of peace and encouragement for you in the face of life’s trials and uncertainties? See the last paragraph of page 88-89.

In class: turn to page 88-89 and read last paragraph – Don’t worry! God rules!

Daniel 5 & Chapter 8

Read/Note:

- Twenty to thirty years have elapsed between Daniel chapter 4 and 5.
- Daniel chapter 5 recounts God’s judgement on a drunken, idolatrous feast that is interrupted by a hand writing on the wall. (Daniel 5:1-12) Daniel is called in to interpret the dream and explains that it proclaims the judgement of Belshazzar and the fall of Babylon into the hands of the Medes and Persians (13-29) which occurs that very night (30-31).

In class: turn to page 91 and read last paragraph page 91 into page 92.

In class: turn to page 94 and read 1st paragraph.

4) After reading pages 91-102, contrast the character of King Belshazzar with that of Daniel. See Daniel 5:11-12. How do the following passages of scripture exhort us to live as followers of Christ? 1 Peter 1:13-16; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:22-26 List other passages of scripture which may come to mind.

Daniel 6 & Chapter 9

Read/Note: Dr. Jeremiah writes, "Though the works of evil men come to an end, the work of God continues. The only continuity between Daniel 5 and Daniel 6 is the Prophet Daniel himself. He is in his mid-eighties. He has outlived the Babylonians and is about to start on his second dynasty with good king Darius and Cyrus. The Scripture reminds us that this step from the Babylonian kingdom to the Medo-Persian kingdom is not a step upward, but a step downward. King Nebuchadnezzar's reign was an absolute monarchy. But with the Medo-Persians there is a hierarchy of 120 princes, overseen by three presidents, among whom Daniel was the first in authority. Daniel had honored God, and now God was going to honor Daniel once more."

In class: read Daniel 6:3-5. The New King James Version of the Bible states that Daniel distinguished himself from all others "because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him." "Daniel was like two other men mentioned in the Old Testament, Joseph and Jonathan, about whom there is no mention of any evil." (Dr. Jeremiah)

In class: turn to page 111-112 and read last paragraph of page 111 through 1st paragraph 112.

5) What are the two qualities listed in Proverbs 27:4 which characterized the governors and the king? (See also p.112) According to James 4:1-10 what will equip us to fight the sins of envy, jealousy, and pride?

In class: turn to page 112-113 and read last paragraph page 112 through "That's it. No matter what happens, just go forward" on page 113.

6) What did Daniel do when he heard about the king's decree? Along with a consistent prayer life, what are three contributing qualities in Daniel's makeup found on pages 114-115? Why, or why not, is prayer the first thing you do when faced with a crisis?

Daniel 6 & Chapter 10

In class: turn to page 123 and read 1st three paragraphs (through Ps. 34:7,10)

7) What are the lions you are facing in your life? What does God promise? (page 123)

In class: turn to page 125-126 and read last paragraph of page 125 through 2nd paragraph on page 126.

8) What is the two-fold purpose of “lions’ den” experiences? (page 125-126)

9) Psalm 91 is a beautiful promise of God’s protection. How should the Christian who is living for Christ apply this psalm? Should we always expect to be protected from harm? How do you reconcile the promises of this Psalm with Christ’s own experience?

The Handwriting on the Wall – Leader’s Guide

Lesson 4

Daniel 7-8 & Chapters 11-13 - Daniel’s Dream – The Ancient of Days – The Beast – Daniel’s Vision

Daniel 7:1-14 & Chapter 11

Read/Note: Daniel 7 is a flashback in time to the first year of the reign of Belshazzar. On page 129, Dr. Jeremiah writes, “In one of the most profound sequences in the Bible, Daniel tells of his troubling visions...and trembled and turned pale with the knowledge that was revealed to him. The great interpreter could not explain his own dreams but required the services of an angel.”

In class: turn to page 130 and read 3rd paragraph to the end of page.

1) Review pages 132-134 and list the four beasts from Daniel’s dream and what they represent. List facts about each you find informative or interesting. What is significantly different about the fourth kingdom?

In class: turn to page 134 and read first half of the third paragraph. (“The Bible says...”)

Read/Note: On page 135, Dr. Jeremiah asserts “God clearly sees human history as a chronicle of immorality, brutality and depravity...as history unfolds it does not get better, it gets worse. Human history will not continue indefinitely on its present course, nor will it come to an end with man annihilating itself. When Jesus Christ returns, it will be to a world that is still here, not a scorched earth of nuclear waste. God in heaven is in control.”

2) How are the 1st and 2nd coming of Jesus described in Isaiah 61:1-2 and clarified by Dr. Jeremiah on page 137?

In class: turn to page 138 and read 2nd paragraph to the end of the page.

Read/Note: On page 40, Dr. Jeremiah writes, “We can see that the Most High is reigning in heaven, and His enemies are creating turmoil on earth. God is in control.”

3) List the attributes of God found on page 139.

4) Read Daniel 7:13-14. Who is the son of man? What four qualities of the kingdom of Christ are listed on pages 141-142? How does understanding the coming kingdom of Christ bring hope considering what is going on in our world today?

Daniel 7:15-28 & Chapter 12

5) In chapter 12, Dr. Jeremiah writes, "As we read through the Scripture, we find many names for the Antichrist and unless we know them, it is easy to get confused." From pages 145-147, list the names and characteristics of the Antichrist found in Scripture. Who will equip the Antichrist with power?

In class: turn to page 148 and read 2nd and 3rd paragraphs.

6) In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, Paul warns about the danger of deception regarding the end times. How should we apply that warning today? (verse 3a) Knowledge of the truth is the only sure defense against spiritual deception. How can the body of Christ be better strengthened against the deception of the Antichrist?

Read/Note: On page 151, we read that everyone, with the exception of those saved during the Tribulation, will worship the Antichrist. "His control will be religious, political, and economic." "Although the reign of the Antichrist is worldwide and his dominion without peer, the end is in sight! The Bible says that the Antichrist and his followers will come to war with Jesus Christ and His followers, and Christ will be the victor."

7) We are assured that Christ will be the victor in the war against the Antichrist and his followers. Does this excite you and encourage you to grow deeper in your knowledge of the truth? What two things are we as Christians to do in the light of the coming of Christ? (page 152)

Daniel 8 & Chapter 13

Read/Note: Daniel 8 records Daniel's second vision. Remember that the first six chapters of Daniel are history and chapters seven through twelve are prophecies received during the time of the first six chapters. This vision came to Daniel just before the events of the end of the Babylonian Empire, (the hand writing on the wall,) in chapter 5. It prophesies events which would happen after the Babylonian fall.

In class: turn to pages 155-156 and read last paragraph of page 155 through 1st paragraph of page 156. Chapter 8 of Daniel is prophecy, now partially fulfilled and still yet to come.

8) Dr. Jeremiah describes the Ram and the Goat in Daniel's vision on pages 157-159. What do the Ram, the Goat, and the Prominent Horn represent?

In class: turn to page 161 and read 1st paragraph

9) What achievements of Alexander the Great reveal God's sovereignty in paving the way for the coming of Jesus Christ?

10) Who was Antiochus Epiphanes? According to Dr. Jeremiah's writing on pages, to whom does the description "completely wicked, a stern-faced king, master of intrigue", (Daniel 8:23-25,) refer?

11) On page 169, Dr. Jeremiah addresses Daniel's reaction and our response to prophecy concerning the end times. What should motivate the Christian who understands the coming of the end of the age?

The Handwriting on the Wall – Leader’s Guide

Lesson 5

Daniel 9 & Chapters 14-16 - Daniel’s Prayer – The Seventy Weeks of Daniel

Daniel 9:1-19 & Chapter 14

In class: turn to page 171-172 and read last paragraph through 1st paragraph on page 172.

1) Read Daniel 9:2-3.

- What prompted Daniel to pray?

- List the five words that describe how Daniel poured out his heart to God. Do these characterize your communication with God?

2) Read 1 John 5:14-15 and review page 175 of The Handwriting on the Wall.

- How are we to know what to pray and why are we to integrate God’s word into our prayers?

- Have you incorporated bible intake and meditation on God’s word into your prayer life? If so, can you share the benefits of this discipline?

Read/Note: Daniel’s prayer life was characterized by dedicated frequency, fervency, and fasting. On page 178, Dr. Jeremiah writes, “The point is that fasting is simply one measure of fervency that is important in our relationship with God.”

3) What does it mean to be fervent in prayer? What actions might you take to increase fervency in *your* prayer life?

4) Read Daniel’s prayer found in Daniel 9:4-19.

- Daniel’s prayer contains humility (v. 3), worship (v. 4), confession (vs. 5-15) and petition (vs. 16-19)
- How do these elements of prayer magnify God and focus our eyes on what he is doing and wants us to do?

Daniel 9:20-27 & Chapter 15

Facts to know regarding the Seventy Weeks:

- 1 week = 7 years
- 70 weeks = 490 years
- 70 weeks are divided into 3 periods: 7 weeks – 62 weeks – 1 week (Dan 9:25-27)
- 69 of the 70 weeks have been fulfilled. We are living in a parenthesis section.
- 1 week (7-year period) remains to be fulfilled

In class: turn to page 188 and read first full paragraph. Note that 69 of the 70 weeks have been fulfilled! We can have complete confidence that God will fulfill the last week of the prophecy.

5) Read Daniel 9:23. Do you see any connection between Daniel's confession of Israel's sin and the fact that an answer had been given as soon as he began to pray? See Psalm 66:18.

In class: turn to page 191 and read 3rd and 4th paragraphs – "Daniel had confessed..."

In class: turn to page 192 and read 3rd paragraph. Only 1 "week" remains. We are living in a parenthesis period between the 69 weeks already fulfilled and the one remaining week.

6) What will take place right before the 70th week begins? What is the 70th week referred to on page 192 and in Matthew 24:21 (KJV)?

Daniel 9:20-27 & Chapter 16

Read/Note:

- On pages 196 in *The Handwriting on the Wall*, Dr. Jeremiah writes, "Daniel 9:25 states that the starting point of the seventy weeks is the issuance of a command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem."
- Dr. Jeremiah uses detailed calculations to show that the end of 69 weeks occurred the very day that Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem in His triumphal entry.
- Refer to the graphic *The 70 Weeks of Daniel 9* by Sir Robert Anderson from *The Coming Prince: The Last Great Monarch of Christendom*

7) See page 202-203. As discussed, the Rapture will usher in the 70th week. Who will make a treaty with the Jewish people and how will it turn out?

- What glorious event will take place at the end of the 70th week?

8) From pages 204-206, what things can we learn from Bible prophecy?

9) Recall a time in your life when something happened about which you did not have complete understanding. What should your perspective be when you cannot see God's purpose or plan in your life? Read Romans 8:28-29.

The Handwriting on the Wall – Leader’s Guide

Lesson 6

Daniel 10-11 & Chapters 17-19 - The Unseen Battle – Prophecy Fulfilled - Armageddon

Daniel 10 & Chapter 17

In class: turn to page 207 and read 1st sentence 1st paragraph and last 2 sentences page 207.

Read/Note: On page 208 we learn that Daniel mourned the fact that so few Jews were willing to return to Israel and had become accustomed to the comfort of Babylon. Those who had returned “had fallen back into the same kinds of sins that put them into captivity in the first place.”

1) What burdened Daniel and what did he do in response to this burden?

- What did the messenger say about why and when Daniel’s prayers were heard? (Daniel 10:12)
- Why was the answer delayed? Are we still in battle with Satan and his demons? (see p. 212)
- According to Revelation 12:11 what has conquered Satan and what part do the faith and actions of the saints play in his defeat?

In Class: Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.”

- 2) Read Ephesians 6:11-13, 17-18, 2 Corinthians 10:3-4, and review page 214-215 of The Handwriting on the Wall.
 - What do you think the “weapons of the world” are mentioned in 2 Corinthians 10:4? What are you tempted to use to fight life’s uncertainties and trials?
 - What are two effective spiritual weapons mentioned on pages 214-215?
 - What battles are you currently facing in life and desire to see God overcome? Do you tend to rely on weapons of the world or spiritual weapons in these battle areas?

In class: turn to page 216 and read 2nd paragraph, “We have not...” and page 217 2nd paragraph, “If we are...”

Daniel 10-11:1-35 & Chapter 18

In class: turn to page 220: “Daniel had been praying for twenty-one days! Read 3rd paragraph.

3) According to Dr. Jeremiah, what choice must we make regarding the prophecies recorded in the book of Daniel? What is the benefit of looking back and studying fulfilled prophecy?

Facts to know: On page 222, Dr. Jeremiah writes, “In Daniel 11:5-35, we are told the detailed history still to come of almost two hundred years of fighting between the king of the South and king of the North.” The prophecies were fulfilled as follows:

- Four Persian kings (v. 2) after Cyrus were: Cambyses, Pseudo-Smerdis, Darius, and Xerxes.
- The “mighty king” (v. 3): Alexander the Great
- “Out of Syria came the first king of the North, and from Egypt the king of the South.” (p, 222)
- Israel was caught in the middle between the North and South. (v. 11-19)
- The “contemptible person” (v. 21) Antiochus Epiphanes – “forerunner of the Antichrist.”
- Peace Treaty, broken treaty, fury on the Jews by Antiochus “the madman” (v. 30-35)

In class: turn to page 226 and read last paragraph.

4) Read Romans 1:20. How does this verse ensure us that God is able to provide and fulfill prophecy in his word? Why should we study prophecy yet to be fulfilled?

Daniel 11:36-45 & Chapter 19

In class: turn to page 229 and read 1st four paragraphs.

5) See page 230-231. According to Dr. Jeremiah, what does the Bible teach us regarding the events leading up to Armageddon?

- Why is the battle referred to as “Armageddon?”

- What two reasons does Dr. Jeremiah give for the purpose of Armageddon? (p. 232)
- Of what truth does Daniel's message remind us? (p.232)

In class: turn to page 233 and read 1st two paragraphs.

6) Who are the five participants in the final battle?

7) What significant event will take place between the Antichrist and Israel and what will be the outcome?

8) Read page 236-237. What events will usher in Christ's kingdom?

9) How should we as Christians respond to the exciting events to come as described in Revelation 19:11-16?

The Handwriting on the Wall – Leader’s Guide

Lesson 7

Daniel 12 and Chapter 20 – Resurrection & Reward and The Last Word from Daniel

Daniel 12 & Chapter 20

In class: turn to page 239 and read 2nd and 3rd paragraphs.

In class: turn to page 241 and read 1st through 3rd paragraphs. (“In the twenty-fourth chapter...”)

1) Read Daniel 12:1 and Revelation 12:7-9. Who is Michael and what is his present and coming role in the spiritual realm? (p. 242)

- According to Dr. Jeremiah, why does Satan hate the nation of Israel and pour out his wrath against the Jewish nation?

2) What is the purpose of the Tribulation period for the Jews and what portion of the Jewish nation will make it through the Tribulation? (p.243)

3) The first resurrection the Bible teaches is Christ’s resurrection. Resurrection of the saved is divided into two additional groups. Who will be resurrected in each of the two groups and what is the timing of each regarding the Tribulation? (p. 244)

4) When will the resurrection of “others to shame and everlasting contempt” occur and who will it encompass?

Read/Note: On page 245, Dr. Jeremiah states, “by the time God is finished resurrecting, nobody will be left in the grave.”

5) Read Romans 2:5-11. Into what two groups will God, according to his righteous judgement, divide mankind? According to Romans 10:9-10 what must a person do to be saved?

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Read/Note: In Daniel 12:3 the “wise” and “those who lead many to righteousness” are revealed by Dr. Jeremiah to be believers who dare to teach and evangelize during the Tribulation. Imagine the cost they will pay to take a stand for Christ.

6) Think about the persecution awaiting believers who declare God's truths during the Tribulation. What are some reasons Christians today do not share the truths of salvation to those who are heading toward eternal wrath and separation from God?

- Has studying the prophecies in the book of Daniel given you a "prophetic perspective" and created a sense of urgency within you to share the message of salvation to those who are lost?

7) What questions were asked of the man clothed in linen? What answers were given?

8) What words of comfort and assurance are given to Daniel in verses 10 and 13? What does 1 Corinthians 1:18 tell us about the truths in God's word and the wicked?

In class: turn to page 250 and read 5th paragraph, "When we study prophecy..."

9) What are Christians called upon to do as we trust in God, who knows and controls all things? (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Final Overview: The purpose of the book of Daniel must be kept in mind throughout the study of God's word. God is in control. God is on the throne. God is sovereign. "There is a God in heaven," (Daniel 2:28) and He "rules in the kingdom of men" (Daniel 4:17).