

The Handwriting on the Wall – Study Guide

Lesson 1

Daniel 1 & Chapter 1 - God's Sovereignty & Daniel's Commitment

Read Daniel 1 & Chapter 1

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?

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

Read Chapter 2

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?

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

Read Chapter 3

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

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 – Study Guide

Lesson 2

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

Read Daniel 2 & Chapter 4

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 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?

Read Daniel 3 & Chapter 6

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?

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 – Study Guide

Lesson 3

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

Read Daniel 4 & Chapter 7

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?

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.

Read Daniel 5 & Chapter 8

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.

Read Daniel 6 & Chapter 9

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?

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?

Read Daniel 6 & Chapter 10

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

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 – Study Guide

Lesson 4

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

Read Daniel 7:1-14 & Chapter 11

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?

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

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?

Read 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?

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?

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)

Read Daniel 8 & Chapter 13

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 handwriting on the wall,) in chapter 5. It prophesies events which would happen after the Babylonian fall.

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?

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 – Study Guide

Lesson 5

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

Read Daniel 9:1-19 & Chapter 14

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?

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?

Read 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

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.

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)?

Read Daniel 9:20-27 & Chapter 16

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 – Study Guide

Lesson 6

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

Read Daniel 10 & Chapter 17

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?

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?

Read Daniel 10-11:1-35 & Chapter 18

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)

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?

Read Daniel 11:36-45 & Chapter 19

5) See pages 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)

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 – Study Guide

Lesson 7

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

Daniel 12 & Chapter 20

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?

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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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?

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).