

Purposed in His Heart



Daniel 1 · This week: There Is No Other God That Can Deliver, Daniel 1–7

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 46, “There Is No Other God That Can Deliver,” on Gospel Library**

START

Daniel was one of the young captives Babylon chose to train for the king’s service (Daniel 1:3–6).

READ TOGETHER

Babylon gave the young men new names, new lessons, and food from the king’s own table (Daniel 1:4–7). The plan was to make them into Babylonians in three years.

DANIEL 1:8

⁸But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

DANIEL 1:15–17

¹⁵And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king’s meat. ¹⁶Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse. ¹⁷As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

WHAT IT TEACHES

“Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself” (Daniel 1:8). He made up his mind before he ate any of it. A choice made ahead of time is easier to keep when the pressure comes.

The king’s food likely broke the law of Moses or had been offered to Babylon’s gods. Daniel asked politely, and he offered a test. “Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink” (Daniel 1:12). Pulse means plants grown from seed, like vegetables and beans.

After ten days the four young men looked healthier than everyone who ate the king’s food (verse 15). Then “God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom” (verse 17). The Lord promises health, wisdom, and hidden treasures of knowledge to all who keep the Word of Wisdom and obey his commandments (Doctrine and Covenants 89:18–21).

TALK ABOUT IT

What is one choice you could decide ahead of time, the way Daniel did, so it is already settled when someone pressures you?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Daniel purposed in his heart before he tasted the king’s food. Deciding ahead of time is one way we show the Lord that we trust him.

A God in Heaven



Daniel 2:1–30 · This week: There Is No Other God That Can Deliver, Daniel 1–7

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START

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that troubled him. He demanded that his wise men tell him both the dream and its meaning, or die (Daniel 2:1–5).

READ TOGETHER

No one could do it. “There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king’s matter,” the wise men said (Daniel 2:10). The king ordered every wise man in Babylon killed, and the order included Daniel and his friends (Daniel 2:12–13).

DANIEL 2:17–19

¹⁷Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: ¹⁸That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁹Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

DANIEL 2:28

²⁸But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

WHAT IT TEACHES

Daniel asked the king for time (verse 16). Then he went home and asked his three friends to pray with him for mercy (verses 17 and 18). He had

lived close to the Lord for years, so in a crisis he knew where to go and whom to take with him.

That night the secret was revealed “in a night vision” (verse 19). Before Daniel went to the king, he gave thanks. “I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers” (verse 23).

In front of the king, Daniel took no credit. “There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets” (verse 28). He said the answer came for the king’s sake and owed nothing to any wisdom of his own (verse 30).

Revelation usually comes to people who are already praying and obeying. Daniel had kept the Lord’s law since chapter 1, when “God gave them knowledge” the first time (Daniel 1:17). His preparation started long before the king’s dream.

TALK ABOUT IT

When our family faces a hard problem, where do we turn first? How could we pray together the way Daniel and his friends did?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Daniel gave God the credit in front of the king. When the Lord answers our prayers, we can tell others where the answer came from.

Cut Out Without Hands

Daniel 2:31–49 · This week: There Is No Other God That Can Deliver, Daniel 1–7

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START

In the king’s dream, a stone “cut out without hands” struck a giant statue, broke it to pieces, and grew into a mountain that “filled the whole earth” (Daniel 2:34–35).

READ TOGETHER

The statue had a head of gold, arms of silver, a belly of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron mixed with clay (Daniel 2:32–33). Daniel explained that each part stood for a kingdom, beginning with Babylon itself (Daniel 2:37–40).

DANIEL 2:34–35

34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

DANIEL 2:44

44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

WHAT IT TEACHES

The metals in the statue get cheaper as they go down, and the feet are partly clay. The stone is different. No human hands cut it, and “in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed” (Daniel 2:44).

In 1831 the Lord told Joseph Smith that the keys of his kingdom were on the earth again. He said the gospel would roll forth like the stone Daniel saw until it filled the whole earth (Doctrine and Covenants 65:2).

The Church was organized in 1830 with six members, in a log home in New York. Today its members live all over the world, and the stone is still rolling.

In general conference, President D. Todd Christofferson taught what the stone stands for. “The Church is that prophesied latter-day kingdom, not created by man but set up by the God of heaven and rolling forth as a stone ‘cut out of the mountain without hands’ to fill the earth. Its destiny is to establish Zion in preparation for the return and millennial rule of Jesus Christ.”

President D. Todd Christofferson, “Why the Church,” General conference, October 2015

TALK ABOUT IT

**The stone was small when it started.
What is one small thing our family could do this week to help the Lord’s kingdom grow?**

TAKE TO CHURCH

Daniel saw a stone cut out without hands become a mountain that filled the earth. The Lord has set up his kingdom again, and each of us helps it roll forth.

But If Not

Daniel 3 · This week: There Is No Other God That Can Deliver, Daniel 1–7

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START

Nebuchadnezzar set up a golden statue about ninety feet tall and commanded everyone to bow down to it when the music played (Daniel 3:1–5).

READ TOGETHER

Anyone who refused would be thrown into “a burning fiery furnace” (Daniel 3:6). Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego refused, and the king gave them one more chance (Daniel 3:13–15).

DANIEL 3:17–18

¹⁷ If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

DANIEL 3:25

²⁵ He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

WHAT IT TEACHES

The king asked, “Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?” (verse 15). The three men answered that their God was able to deliver them and would. “But if not,” they added, they still would not bow (verses 17 and 18). They would obey God even if he did not save them from the fire.

Elder Dennis E. Simmons gave a talk named for their answer. “Faith is total trust in Him. Faith is believing that although we do not understand all things, He does. Faith is knowing that although our power is limited, His is not.”

Elder Dennis E. Simmons, “But If Not ...,” General conference, April 2004

The king heated the furnace seven times hotter, and the fire killed the soldiers who threw the men in (verses 19 to 22). Then the king saw four men “walking in the midst of the fire,” and “the form of the fourth is like the Son of God” (verse 25). The Lord let them go into the furnace, and he sent his angel to be with them there (verse 28).

They came out without even the smell of fire on them (verse 27). The king who had threatened them said, “There is no other God that can deliver after this sort” (verse 29).

TALK ABOUT IT

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego decided what they would do before they knew how it would end. What would a “but if not” sound like in our family?

TAKE TO CHURCH

The three friends said God would deliver them, “but if not,” they would still obey. The Lord sent his angel to be with them in the fire, and he is with us in ours.

Weighed in the Balances



Daniel 4:28–37; 5 · This week: There Is No Other God That Can Deliver, Daniel 1–7

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START

During a royal feast, the fingers of a man’s hand appeared and wrote on the palace wall (Daniel 5:5).

READ TOGETHER

Years earlier, Nebuchadnezzar had boasted about “great Babylon, that I have built,” and he lost his kingdom until he learned humility (Daniel 4:30–34). Belshazzar, who ruled Babylon later, knew that story and ignored it (Daniel 5:22).

DANIEL 5:5

⁵In the same hour came forth fingers of a man’s hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

DANIEL 5:25–28

²⁵And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. ²⁶This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. ²⁷TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. ²⁸PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

WHAT IT TEACHES

Belshazzar threw a party for a thousand lords and had them drink from the gold and silver cups taken from the temple in Jerusalem (Daniel 5:1–4). The cups had been made for holy use. He used them to praise idols.

Daniel read the writing. MENE meant God had numbered the kingdom and ended it. TEKEL meant “Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting” (verse 27). The king had everything, and he came up short on the one scale that mattered.

Nebuchadnezzar’s story ended better. After his pride brought him down, he lifted his eyes to heaven and his understanding came back (Daniel 4:34). He praised the King of heaven and said, “those that walk in pride he is able to abase” (Daniel 4:37). The Lord gave him time to learn, and he learned.

Daniel told Belshazzar that he had never glorified “the God in whose hand thy breath is” (Daniel 5:23). Every breath we take is a gift from God. Humility starts with remembering who gives it.

TALK ABOUT IT

The temple cups were holy things that Belshazzar treated as ordinary. What holy things do we have in our lives, and how do we show respect for them?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Nebuchadnezzar learned humility and praised God. Belshazzar knew that story and ignored it, and his kingdom ended that same night (Daniel 5:30–31).

Three Times a Day



Daniel 6 · This week: There Is No Other God That Can Deliver, Daniel 1–7

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START

Officials who were jealous of Daniel looked for something wrong with him and found nothing, so they set a trap using his prayers (Daniel 6:4–5).

READ TOGETHER

They talked King Darius into signing a new law. For thirty days, anyone who prayed to any god or man except the king would be thrown to the lions (Daniel 6:7–9). A law of the Medes and Persians could never be changed.

DANIEL 6:10

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

DANIEL 6:22

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

WHAT IT TEACHES

When Daniel knew the law was signed, he went home to his room, where the windows were open toward Jerusalem, and knelt to pray three times a day, “as he did aforetime” (verse 10). He did what he had always done. His habit of prayer was already in place when the test came.

Daniel faced Jerusalem when he prayed. Long before, Solomon had asked the Lord to hear his people when they prayed toward the temple from a faraway land (1 Kings 8:46–49). The temple had been destroyed, and Daniel still turned toward it.

The king could not sleep that night. At dawn he hurried to the den and called out, and Daniel answered, “My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths” (verse 22).

Darius then wrote to every nation in his kingdom that Daniel's God “is the living God, and stedfast for ever” (Daniel 6:26). One man's daily prayers taught a king who God is.

TALK ABOUT IT

Daniel prayed three times a day long before anyone made it dangerous. What times in our day could be our times to pray, and what would help us remember?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Daniel kept praying the way he always had, even when the law said stop. Small, daily prayers hold us steady when a test comes.

The Son of Man



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START

Jesus often called himself “the Son of man.” In his day, many Jews connected that title to a vision Daniel had one night in Babylon (Daniel 7:13).

READ TOGETHER

In the vision, Daniel saw four beasts rise out of the sea, pictures of kingdoms of the world (Daniel 7:3; 7:17). Then he saw the Ancient of days take his throne, and “the judgment was set” (Daniel 7:9–10).

DANIEL 7:13–14

¹³ I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. ¹⁴ And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

WHAT IT TEACHES

The Ancient of days is Adam, the father of all (Doctrine and Covenants 27:11; 116:1). In Daniel’s vision, one like the Son of man comes to him “with the clouds of heaven” and receives a kingdom “which shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13–14).

Heavenly Father has a name, Man of Holiness, and his Only Begotten is called the Son of Man (Moses 6:57). When Jesus called himself the

Son of man, he was telling people whose Son he is.

On the last night of his mortal life, the high priest asked Jesus whether he was the Christ, “the Son of the Blessed.” Jesus answered, “I am,” and said they would see “the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven” (Mark 14:61–62). The council knew he was claiming Daniel’s vision for himself, and they condemned him (Mark 14:63–64).

The kingdom in Daniel 2 and the kingdom in Daniel 7 belong to the same King. In the end it will be given to “the saints of the most High” (Daniel 7:27), and the Savior invites every one of us into it.

TALK ABOUT IT

Jesus chose the title Son of Man for himself. Which of his names or titles means the most to you, and why?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Daniel saw one like the Son of Man come with the clouds of heaven and receive a kingdom that will never end. That is Jesus Christ, the Son of our Father in Heaven.