

King Over All

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King Over All: The Book of Daniel

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God's Plan of Salvation

Carefully think about these Scripture verses, as they explain how you can have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. God loves you and wants you to enjoy abundant life.

- John 3:16—“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
- John 10:10—“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

All people are sinful, and their sin separates them from God.

- Romans 3:23—“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”
- Romans 6:23—“For the wages of sin is death [spiritual separation from God].”

Jesus Christ's death is the only provision God has made to pay for man's sin.

- Romans 5:8—“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
- John 14:6—“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

You must receive Jesus Christ as your Savior before you can personally experience His love for you and the abundant life He has planned for you.

- John 1:12—“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”

You can receive Jesus Christ as your Savior right now by an act of faith.

- Ephesians 2:8–9—“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Are you ready to accept Christ into your life to be your Savior? Use the following prayer as a guide to help you express your desire to God: “Lord God, I know I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe Jesus died for my sins. Right now I receive Him as my Savior. Take control of my life, and replace all the guilt, restlessness, and anxiety with peace and contentment.”

If you have prayed this prayer, tell your Bible study leader or a Christian friend.

Learn to trust God’s Word—not your feelings—when doubts come.

- Romans 10:13—“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
- 1 John 5:11–13—“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

When the Earth Trembles

*“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea”
(Psalm 46:1–2).*

“We have to move.” “You have cancer.” “I have bad news to tell you.”

Moments of change and crisis come into every life, moments when the earth beneath us seems to tremble. When upheaval comes, time seems to stop. We don’t know how we can go on, yet we must, because life goes on. When the circumstances of life have brought us to our knees, how can we get up and move forward? There is for us only one hope: we worship a God Who is sovereign over all. He always has a plan. He is a God of grace and keeping. He never forsakes His own!

Study His Word

In 605 BC, the powerful king of the Babylonians, Nebuchadnezzar, besieged God’s city of Jerusalem and sacked it. Captives were taken. A young man, Daniel, was among those transported from his beloved homeland of Judah to a strange new land. How could Daniel go on? He might have asked where God was and

how He could allow this. But Daniel's faith was firmly grounded in the knowledge of the God he worshiped. The Lord would never leave him. With this hope, he moved forward in his new situation.

Crisis and Change

Read Daniel 1:1–7.

1. (a) Who was Jehoiakim (v. 1)?
- (b) Who was Nebuchadnezzar (v. 1)?
- (c) What did Nebuchadnezzar do to Jerusalem (v. 2)?
- (d) Who allowed him to do this (v. 2)?
- (e) What did the king decide to do with certain captives (vv. 3–4)?



(f) What was his plan (v. 5)?

2. In the book of Daniel, four youths are singled out and presented for our consideration (v. 6). What about these youths was changed by those who held them captive (v. 7)?

Challenge and Conviction

Read Daniel 1:8–21.

3. What challenge to his convictions did Daniel face under the king's plan (vv. 5, 8)?
4. Why were the king's foods unacceptable to Daniel? (Read Exodus 34:14–15; Leviticus 3:17; and Ezekiel 4:13–14.)
5. What did Daniel "purpose" in his heart (v. 8)?
6. What work did God do in this challenging situation (v. 9)?
7. How did Daniel act on his conviction (vv. 10–13)?

Consent and Confirmation

8. How did the chief official respond to Daniel's proposed plan (v. 14)?
9. What was the outcome of the test (vv. 15–16)?

10. What grace did God bestow upon these four youths that confirmed His sovereign keeping of them in the days of their challenging circumstances (v. 17)?
11. What did the king conclude regarding these four teens (vv. 18–21)?
12. Approximately how long did Daniel serve as a government leader (v. 21)?
13. Daniel and his companions faced pressure to conform to the world, and so do we. What do these verses say about our relationship to the world and its culture?
Romans 12:2

Galatians 6:14

James 4:4

1 John 2:15–17

14. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were placed in a situation they couldn't control. Life can change in an instant for us as well. How are the following phrases about God from Psalm 46:1–2 an anchor for your soul when you face trials?
Our refuge and strength

A present help

We will not fear

Daniel and his four friends were transported (against their will) to a strange, pagan culture. Immediately they faced changes that were forced upon them and pressures to conform to that ungodly environment. How difficult and mind numbing this all must have been! But for these young men, one thing was constant: their faith in the God of Israel. Their identity as Jews and God-fearers kept them from falling when their world was quaking. God's Word was their support, and God's sovereignty was the object of their trust.

As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we, too, are forced to live in a strange, pagan culture: the world. Like Daniel and his friends, we face constant pressure to conform to the culture's beliefs and practices. But we also have an identity; we are "Christ ones." No matter what we are facing—crisis, change, or the challenges of our culture—God's Word must be our support and His power the object of our trust.

Think on His Word

15. Why did the Babylonians give new names to Daniel and the other youths?

16. Daniel's faith and character had already been established by the time he arrived in Babylon; he had already "purposed" what kind of person he would be.
 - (a) Why was this helpful to him in the situation that challenged his faith?

- (b) How can we also have a developed character and purpose as we face challenges to our faith?
 - (c) How did God honor Daniel's purpose? Do you think He does the same for us?
17. (a) What advantage was there in the fact that Daniel had three godly companions with whom he could share his predicament?
- (b) What do you learn from this as a Christian woman living in the world?
18. (a) What did you notice about Daniel's attitude and speech toward the chief official as Daniel presented his plan?
- (b) How can you apply his example?
19. Daniel ministered in Babylon for the Lord about seventy years under three rulers and two empires. While these great powers faded away, Daniel continued on, blessed by God. How does that speak to you? (Read Psalm 37:35–40 and Isaiah 40:22–31.)

Apply His Word

How can you apply what you have learned from this lesson to your own situation? Write down any thoughts you have to the following questions. How will you take steps to act on what God has shown you? (These answers are not intended to be shared in a group setting.)

20. Are you facing some crisis or difficult change in your life right now? What truths from this lesson can you apply to aid you as you face your situation?

21. Are you being pressured to give up your pursuit of God? How are you doing with that? Is there something you learned from Daniel that encourages you to stand firm?

22. What resources and practices are developing your faith and character so that you can live daily with “purpose” in your heart to honor God?

23. Do you have godly friends with whom you can share your life challenges and who will pray with you? If not where can you find such friends and develop such relationships?

24. When you interact with those in authority over you, do you treat them with respect, courtesy, and humility? Why is it important for you to do so? (Read 1 Peter 5:5–7.)

25. God honors those who honor Him (1 Samuel 2:30). How do you intend to honor Him in your attitudes, words, and actions?

Bow the Knee

Perspective is everything! When the earth trembles, we can look down and panic or look up and proceed patiently, step by step, in faith. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah found themselves in a tumultuous life change. That change soon brought both pressures to give up their faith in the one true God and challenges to conform to the pagan culture. But they had purposed from the start to remain faithful to the Lord and to trust Him. God responded by giving grace and wisdom that steadied them and enabled them to not just proceed but also to prosper in their new situation. Whatever the situation, God is king over all!