

DANIEL

# DANIEL

## CONTEXT

### Daniel 1:1-2 NIV

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.



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Week Two	Daniel 2, 7 - 8
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Week Six	Daniel 10 - 12
Week Seven	Daniel 9:1-19
Week Eight	Daniel 9:20-27

# DANIEL

TWOS

**Two Sections:** The Court Stories and The Visions

**Two Languages:** Hebrew and Aramaic

**Two Literary Genres:** Narrative and Prophecy

**Two POVs:** Third person and First person

**Two Oppressors:** Babylon and Medo-Persia

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## DIFFICULTY

### Daniel 7:28 <sup>NIV</sup>

“This is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself.”

### Daniel 8:27 <sup>NIV</sup>

I, Daniel, was worn out. I lay exhausted for several days. Then I got up and went about the king’s business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.

### Daniel 12:8 <sup>NIV</sup>

I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, “My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?”

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# DANIEL

## THEMES

- God's providential rule over all people, powers and history.
- Faithfulness to God requires courageous living.
- God has a plan for the future that will transcend any earthly king or kingdom.

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**DANIEL**  
PURPOSE

"Daniel's purpose in writing blended the two themes of prophecy and piety. He wrote first to show God's *future* program for the nation of Israel. Second, he wrote to show what the believers' *present* response should be as they await the coming kingdom of God."

- **Charles Dyer**

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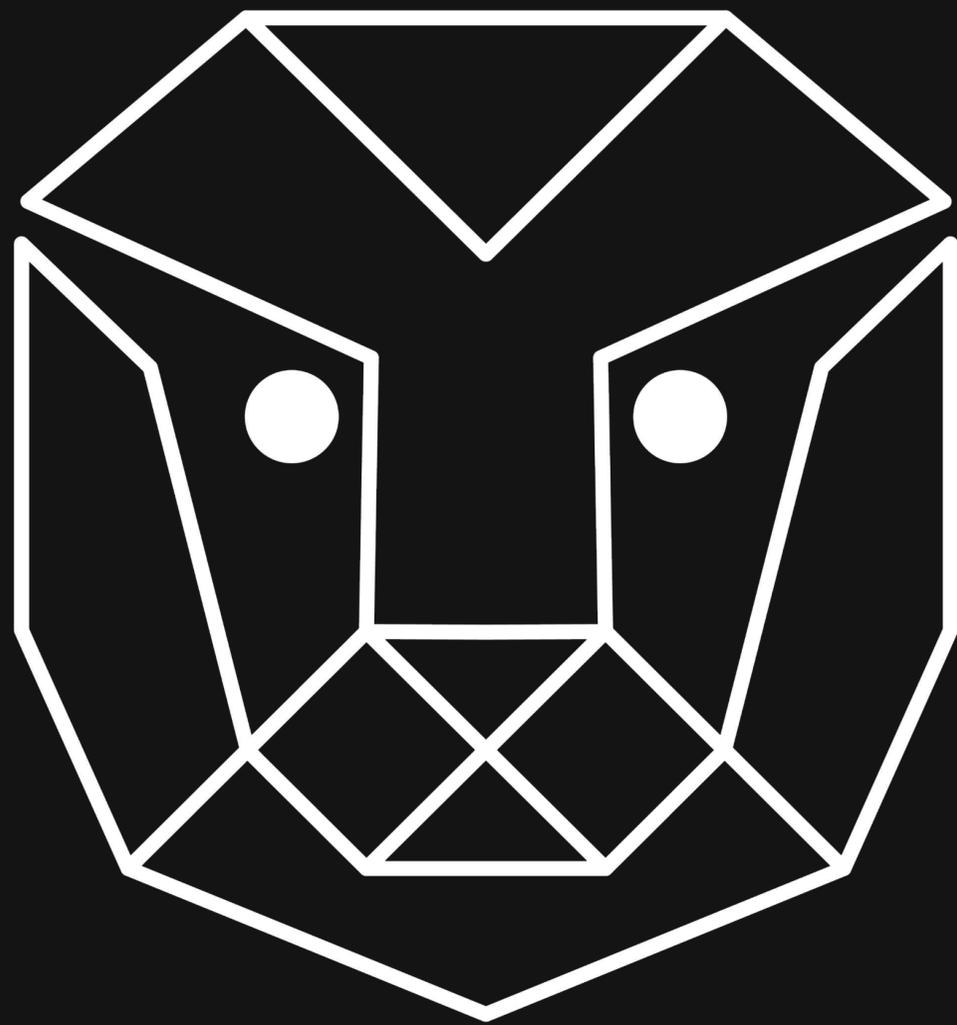
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DANIEL

## Daniel 1:3-5 NIV

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—<sup>4</sup> young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. <sup>5</sup> The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

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## Daniel 1:6-8 NIV

Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. <sup>7</sup> The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. <sup>8</sup> But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.



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## Daniel 1:9-10 NIV

Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, <sup>10</sup> but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.”

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## **Daniel 1:11-14** NIV

Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,<sup>12</sup> “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink.<sup>13</sup> Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.”<sup>14</sup> So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

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## **Daniel 1:15-16** NIV

At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. <sup>16</sup> So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

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## **Daniel 1:17-19** NIV

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.<sup>18</sup> At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar.<sup>19</sup> The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service.

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## **Daniel 1:20-21** NIV

In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom. <sup>21</sup> And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

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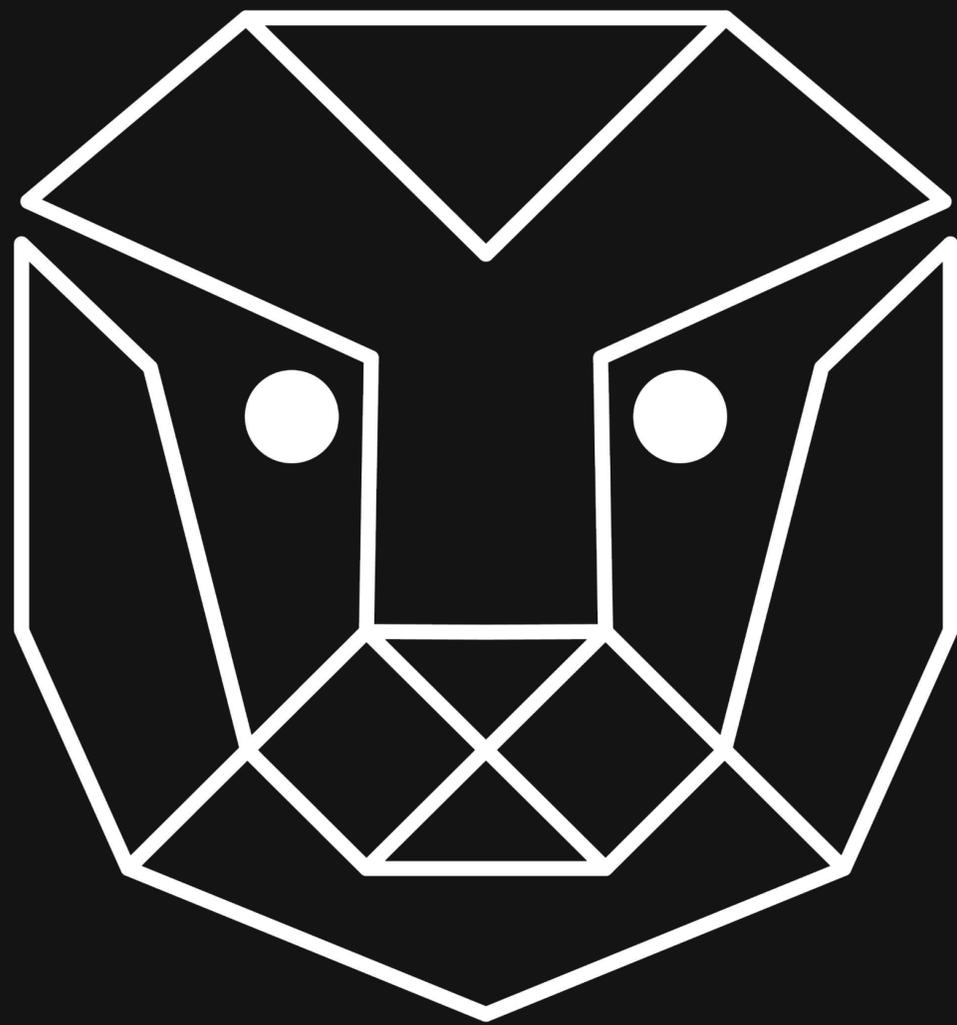
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DANIEL

# DANIEL

## Chapter 1

- 1** **IN** challenging circumstances,  
we can choose our response
- 2** **WITH** certainty of convictions,  
we can maintain our identity
- 3** going **TO** the city of our creator,  
we can be certain of our destiny

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- ① **IN** challenging circumstances,  
we can choose our response

**Psalm 137:1-6** NIV

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. <sup>2</sup> There on the poplars we hung our harps, <sup>3</sup> for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" <sup>4</sup> **How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land?** <sup>5</sup> If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill. <sup>6</sup> May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth **if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy.**

# Changing of Names

**Daniel** ○ → Belteshazzar

**Hananiah** ○ → Shadrach

**Mishael** ○ → Meshach

**Azariah** ○ → Abednego

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**2** **WITH** certainty of convictions,  
we can maintain our identity

### **Daniel 1:6-8** NIV

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**2** **WITH** certainty of convictions,  
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**1 Peter 2:11-12** NIV

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

**3** going **TO** the city of our creator,  
we can be certain of our destiny

**Daniel 1:21** NIV

And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

③ going **TO** the city of our creator,  
we can be certain of our destiny

### Hebrews 11:9-10 <sup>NIV</sup>

By faith **he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country**; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.  
<sup>10</sup> **For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.**

- ③ going **TO** the city of our creator,  
we can be certain of our destiny

### Hebrews 11:13-16 <sup>NIV</sup>

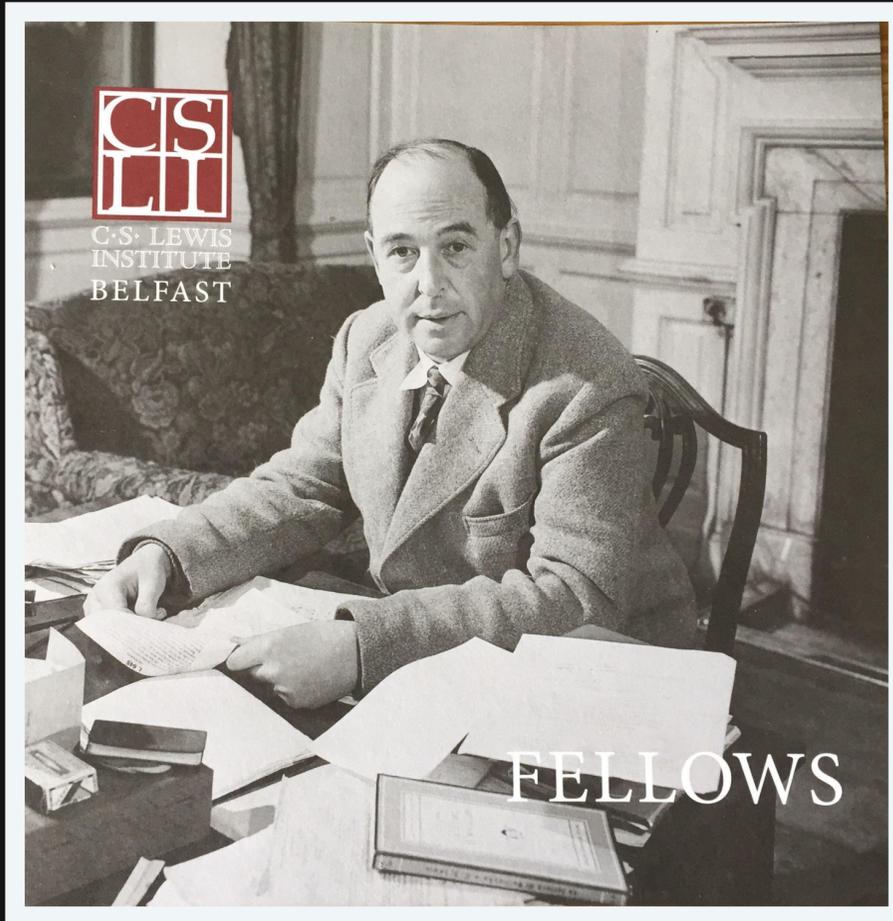
...they were **foreigners and strangers on earth.** <sup>14</sup> ...**they are looking for a country of their own.** <sup>16</sup> ...**they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one.** Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for **he has prepared a city for them.**

- ③ going **TO** the city of our creator,  
we can be certain of our destiny

Hebrews 12:22;28 <sup>NIV</sup>

...**the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.**

<sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are **receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken**, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,"



“This desire for our own far off country, which we find in ourselves even now... only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited.”

- **C.S. Lewis**, *The Weight of Glory*

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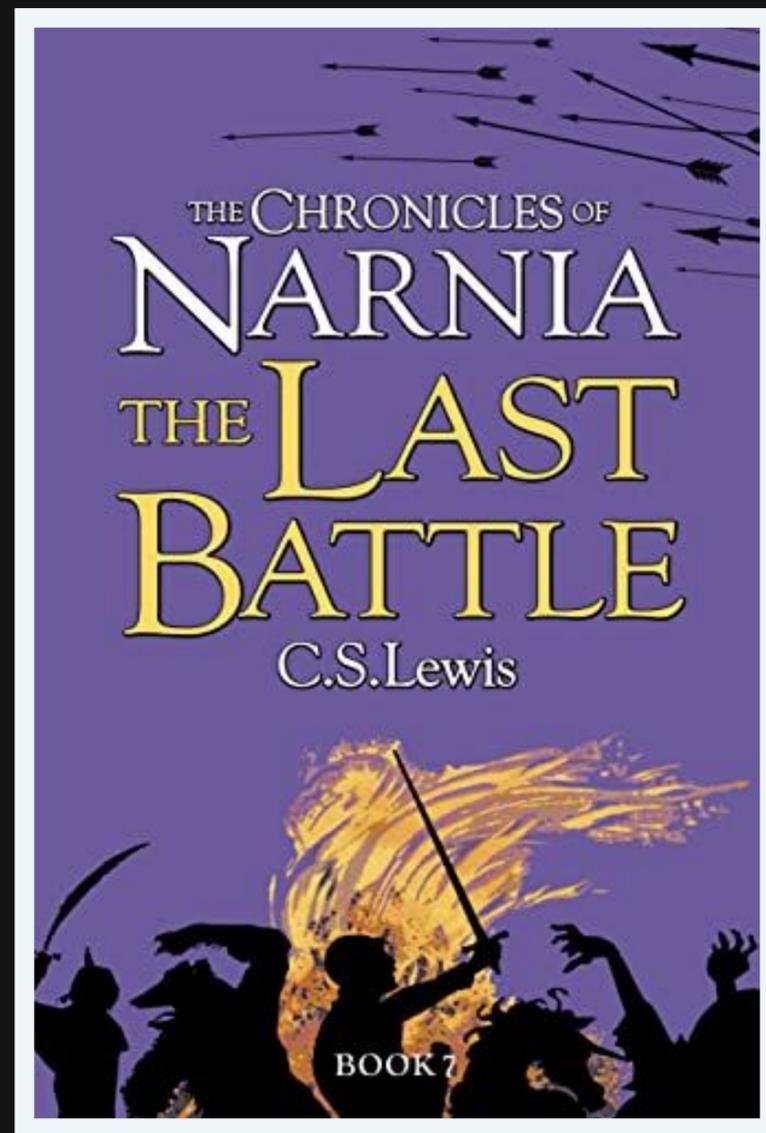
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“The term is over; the holidays have begun. The dream is ended: this is the morning. And as he spoke He no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.”

- **C.S. Lewis**, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle*