

## SLOW FOOD

### THE BOOK OF DANIEL (13 studies)

Daniel is a key book for anyone trying to apply their faith intelligently to their role and responsibilities in the world of their time. Daniel was a young man taken from Jerusalem to Babylon among the first batch of exiles in 605 BC/BCE. He successfully occupied leading governmental posts during the reigns of the Babylonian kings Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, and of 'Darius the Mede' (possibly a Persian governor). He was renowned as an interpreter of other people's visions, and chapters 7-11 contain his own predictions of future history. His last recorded vision comes in the third year of the reign of Cyrus the Great (c537). The material in the book, including a section in Aramaic, is consistent with a sixth-century date, though many scholars have argued vigorously for wholesale editing in the second century. These studies may be found most relevant by those who find the tensions between 'the kingdom of this world' and 'the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ' (Rev 11:15) hard to resolve. The studies are longer than usual Slow Food portions and may need more than a single session to complete.

Helpful books include: Joyce Baldwin *Daniel* (Tyndale OT 1978); Robert Fyall *Daniel* (Christian Focus 1998); John Goldingay *Daniel and the Twelve Prophets for Everyone* (SPCK 2016); and the standard dictionaries and commentaries.

- 1:1-21** If I am to make use of the opportunities (gifts, career etc) granted me by God, will I have to accept practices with which my conscience isn't entirely happy?  
*Gen 13:10-12; 2 Ki 5:18; 1 Jn 2:15-17.*
- 2:1-30** Is the earthly authority or 'the God of heaven' more hazardous to deal with?  
*Ps 2; Mt 16:17, 23; Heb 12:25-29.*
- 2:31-49** How revolutionary is the prayer 'Your kingdom come'?  
*Jer 27:4-7; Acts 17:6-7; 1 Pet 2:13, 3:22.*
- 3:1-30** How dependent is my faith upon God so arranging things that I don't suffer?  
*Ps 66:12; Job 13:15; Lk 21:12-19.*
- 4:1-37** Can I be proud of my achievements? *Ps 138:4-6; 1 Cor 4:7; 1Cor 15:10.*
- 5:1-31** Am I more concerned with the outward trappings of power than with its true origin and character? *Mt 11:29; Acts 12:21-23; 1 Pet 5:5-6.*
- 6:1-28** Is God always going to rescue me in situations of intrigue and/or unjustified official interference? *Acts 24:27; 2 Tim 4:17; Ps 116:15.*
- 7:1-28** In serving Christ, am I a loser? *Mk 14:62; Jn 12:26; Eph 1:18-22.*
- 8:1-27** Is there always something demonic in the exercise of power?  
*Isa 45:1; 14:13; Lk 4:6; 2 Th 2:4.*

- 9:1-19** Do I pray like this for my school or place of work etc?  
*Jn 17:9, 20; Col 4:12; Jas 5:16.*
- 9:20-27** Are my concerns the same as God's? *Lk 18:6-8; 2 Th 2:6-7; Rom 5:6.*
- 10:1-11:1** Am I aware of the ongoing spiritual battle? Am I any use to Christ in it? *Isa 65:24; Rev 8:3-5; Rev 12:7.* *Note.* The identity of the messenger(?s) in this chapter is not revealed, whether Gabriel, the pre-incarnate Christ or someone else. But the authority and message are directly from God.
- 11:2-45** If history is predetermined, what significance do my individual choices have? (see esp. vv32-39). *Ps 16:18; Eph 6:13; Jude 24.* *Note.* vv1-35 more or less fit the historical facts as we know them (see comm.). However, vv36-45 do not fit the known events at the end of Antiochus' reign; they may be a prophecy of the antichrist.
- 12:1-13** What is Daniel told will certainly happen? If I believe this, how should I be living in the world as it is today? *Isa 26:19; Jas 5:20/Prov. 11:30; Rev 21:27.*
- Review** What hope does the book of Daniel offer to someone trying to follow Christ today?