



Daniel

Jesus Christ, the Smiting Stone

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Meaning of the Name

The name *Daniel* (Heb. *Daniyye'l*) means either "God is judge" or "God is my judge."

The basic theme of this work is the overruling sovereignty of the one true God who condemns and destroys the rebellious world power and faithfully delivers his covenant people according to their steadfast faith in him.

F-L-I-G-H-T

F – The prophet Daniel is the author of the book of Daniel. Not only did Daniel claim authorship (12:4), but Jesus also stated that Daniel wrote the book (Matthew 24:15).

Daniel wrote his book in Babylon, probably sometime after 536 BC, the date of the last recorded event in the text. Some scholars suggest the year 530 BC.

F-L-I-G-H-T

L – The book of Daniel offers some of the most astonishing and astounding views of the prophetic past and future in the Bible. Daniel fits in both the prophetic and historic sections of Scripture, chronologically linking the time between the reigns of the kings in 2 Chronicles and the restoration of Jerusalem in Ezra.

F-L-I-G-H-T

- L** – The book of Daniel begins by describing the Jewish deportation to Babylon and continues through Daniel’s vision of the seventy weeks. It can be divided into two major sections:
- *the historic* (7 historical narratives that deal with prophetic history)
 - *the prophetic* (4 prophetic visions interpreted by the angel of the Lord)

F-L-I-G-H-T

- I** *Historical Narration*
- Selection of Daniel (1)
 - Secrets of God (2)
 - Steadfastness of God’s Servants (3)
 - Sovereignty of God (4)
 - Sin and Fall of Babylon (5)
 - Supplication and Deliverance (6)

F-L-I-G-H-T

- I** *Prophetical Revelations*
- Symbol’s Significance (7)
 - Sacrilige in the Sanctuary (8)
 - Seventy Sevens (of Years) (9)
 - Strength from the Savior (10)
 - Sinister “Savior” (11)
 - Salvation of the Saints (12)

F-L-I-G-H-T

- G** – As a Jew, Daniel knew that Israel lived in expectation and anticipation of a coming kingdom ruled by their Messiah. No doubt he was troubled when he had his vision of Gentile nation after Gentile nation ruling the world, wondering when that Messiah would come. But then the messianic prophecies started pouring in, leaving us with some of the most profound and accurate predictions about the Messiah in all of the Bible.

F-L-I-G-H-T

G – In Daniel 2, we see the Son of Man, the Messiah, as a smiting stone that comes out of heaven. In his vision of the dominant kingdoms of the earth, Daniel described how *“a stone was cut out without hands...And the stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth”* (2:34-35). Jesus is that Rock, and he will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed (Rev. 11:15-19).

F-L-I-G-H-T

G – Daniel prophesied about this kingdom in the same chapter, saying that *“the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed”* (2:44). This prophecy is echoed throughout the rest of the book, including Daniel’s prediction that the Messiah would return to earth in glory to rule: *“His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away”* (7:14).

F-L-I-G-H-T

G – The final week referred to in Daniel’s seventy weeks prophecy is the seven years of the tribulation, the events that will precede Jesus’ second coming. The book of Daniel provides us with some of the most specific information about the Messiah, continuing to weave that scarlet thread of redemption throughout the intricate tapestry of God’s story.

F-L-I-G-H-T

H – Daniel was born in Judah under the reign of King Josiah (around 621 BC). He was taken into captivity by Babylon during the first Jewish deportation, sometime around 606-605 BC, and put under the service of King Nebuchadnezzar, eventually taking a key administrative role.

F-L-I-G-H-T

H – The historical events in the book of Daniel are the same events that took place during the lives of the prophets Ezekiel and Jeremiah. Daniel was a captive in Babylon, along with thousands of other Jews. He lived and ministered in Babylon for close to 70 years, probably from 605 to 536 BC. During his captivity, Babylon passed through the hands of at least 4 major rulers: Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, the Median king Darius, and the Persian ruler Cyrus.

F-L-I-G-H-T

T – **Human-based governments don't last.** Daniel's visions make it clear that mankind cannot successfully govern itself in a lasting way, either nationally or individually. He saw mighty kingdom after mighty kingdom fall. Only God can give your life true meaning, value, and purpose, so let him govern it. Only his kingdom will be left standing in the end.

F-L-I-G-H-T

T – **Suffering often makes us question God.** So often we think that hardship is for other people – even other believers – but not for us. *I know he allows others to suffer, but me? No way.* But if God is truly sovereign and loving, then that means he's in charge of your bad times too.

F-L-I-G-H-T

T – **All of history centers Christ's atoning work on the cross.** The pivotal moment in all creation was when God sent his son to die for the sins of mankind. The "seventy weeks" prophecy of Daniel 9 shows God's plan for this moment in history, revealing the tremendous love he has not only for his people Israel, but also for all of mankind.