

THE NON-PROPHET'S GUIDE™ TO

THE BOOK OF  
**DANIEL**

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY  
**TODD HAMPSON**



**LIVING COURAGEOUSLY TODAY  
IN LIGHT OF TOMORROW**

**SMALL-GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE**  
(OR FOR PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY)

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# INTRODUCTION

**H**ello, friend! I'm so glad you have decided to delve into the book of Daniel—whether it be in a group or for your own personal study. I have prayed for God to lead and guide you. I have prayed for His protection over you. And I have prayed that all those who study this book would come to know Christ better and position themselves to be used by Him as well.

If you are using this guide to lead a small group, I have assembled questions that should spur some discussion. Don't feel you have to get through every question or that you can't add your own! There are 18 weeks' worth of questions, but combine or extend weeks as needed. I would suggest reading through the questions a few days in advance of your small group meeting, then prayerfully picking a paragraph, page, or key theme to briefly cover at the opening of your session.

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” ([Hebrews 10:23-25 NIV](#))

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "TODD HANSON". The signature is stylized with vertical lines through the letters.

# WEEK 1

## Kingdom Context (Ch. 1)

1. Before this study, had you ever considered the kingdom theme throughout the Bible? How does the kingdom theme help our understanding of the whole of Scripture?
2. Discuss with your group how the kingdom is
  - in Jesus
  - in Heaven
  - in each believer
  - in a future kingdom on earth
3. What is the underlying principle—and the crux of—the kingdom theme all throughout Scripture? (No cheating by looking at the next question!)
4. (You peeked ahead, didn't you?) What would it mean if God were not sovereign? What would it mean if mankind did not have a free will? Discuss the paradox of God's sovereignty and mankind's free will.

# WEEK 2

## The Background (Ch. 2)

1. How does understanding the “prophetic mountain peaks” concept of Bible prophecy impact your understanding of Daniel?
2. The author says, “Students of Bible prophecy need to begin by familiarizing themselves with the entire Bible.” On a scale of 1–5, with **1** being “hmm, not sure we’ve ever met” and **5** being “oh, yes, we’re old pals,” how would you rate your average familiarity with the following sections of Scripture? (Circle your rating.)

• Pentateuch: Genesis—Deuteronomy	1	2	3	4	5
• Historical Books: Joshua—Esther	1	2	3	4	5
• Poetry: Job—Songs of Solomon	1	2	3	4	5
• Major Prophets: Isaiah—Ezekiel	1	2	3	4	5
• Major Prophets: Daniel	1	2	3	4	5
• Minor Prophets: Hosea—Malachi	1	2	3	4	5
• The Gospels: Matthew—John	1	2	3	4	5
• History and Letters: Acts—Jude	1	2	3	4	5
• Revelation	1	2	3	4	5

3. Discuss the importance of reading Scripture in the context of the following four covenants:
  - Abrahamic Covenant
  - Mosaic Covenant
  - Davidic Covenant
  - New Covenant

# WEEK 3

## The Hero's Journey (Ch. 3)

1. In reading this chapter, what impacted you most and why?
2. What training had Daniel received before his captivity that equipped him to stand firm in his faith midst a pagan culture? What did he do during his captivity to continue to stand firm? What practical applications can we make to our lives today from Daniel's example?
3. Daniel faced very strong cultural pressures that could have tempted him to slack a bit. Giving in on his convictions certainly would have made things easier for him. What pressures do we face today? Generally speaking, how are professing believers handling these pressures? What can or should believers do differently?
4. The author says, "God often allows his people to be tested. He does so, not to be harsh, but to prepare us for greater feats of spiritual strength." Have you experienced this truth in your own life? If so, share with your group how God had previously prepared you for a greater spiritual battle.
5. The author asks, "What is God setting the stage for in your life right now? What test of faith is on your path? What tension exists where you can place trust in God's sovereignty and know that he is currently working behind the scenes to position you right where he wants you?" If you care to, share your answer with the group.

# WEEK 4

## Friends in the Fiery Furnace

(Ch. 4)

1. In reading this chapter, what stood out to you most about the faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
2. Read Daniel 3:16–18. Although today it looks a bit different, believers who are markedly different from the world are still scorned, persecuted, and even killed today for their faith. Prayerfully assess your own heart. When it comes down to boldly honoring the one true God and the truth of His Word or just fitting in and not ruffling anyone’s feathers, where do you stand? Discuss with your group ways in which you can stand boldly for Christ.
3. The author says, “God often allows trials in our life to free us from our reliance on the worldly things that tie us up.” Have you ever experienced that type of liberation? If you care to, share with your group.
4. When the world (unbelievers) look at your life and testimony, do they see a difference (in a good way)? Are there any areas in which you know you need to be separate, holy? If you care to, share with your group.
5. Discuss the prophetic foreshadows found in Daniel chapter 3.

# WEEK 5

## Nebby Goes Nutty (Ch. 5)

1. Discuss the “bad” and “good” parts of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. What are the prophetic implications?
2. Daniel conveyed to Nebuchadnezzar a way to avoid the decreed punishment for Nebuchadnezzar’s rebellion. What was it?
3. The author points out a practical side note about how Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream: “Humans can’t sugarcoat sin or deny truth.” He also said, “Context and timing are everything—and our approach must be Spirit led.” Are there any areas of your own life in which you may be sugarcoating sin or denying truth? How about in the lives of loved ones? What steps do you need to take in acknowledging and encouraging truth in your own life as well as in the lives of your loved ones? Share with your group as time allows.
4. The author notes that Nebuchadnezzar realized that “God so loved the world,” but the king never became one of the *whosoever*s who would come to a personal saving faith in the Lord. Nebuchadnezzar knew *about* the Lord, but he never *knew* the Lord. How common do you think this way of thinking is within the “church”? (How about you? Have you personally accepted Christ as your Savior? If not, please see the last page of this guide.)
5. In reading this chapter, what impacted you most and why?



# WEEK 6

## Belshazzar's Big Mistake (Ch. 6)

1. In reading this chapter, what impacted you most and why?
2. How do we know that God's Word is true?
3. How had Belshazzar invited God's judgment?
4. Read Romans 1. In what ways is our society today inviting God's judgment? What will be the end result of rebellion and pride?

# WEEK 7

## Facing Giants (Ch. 7)

1. Daniel had clearly-defined spiritual habits, and he was faithful in them despite great challenges. What are some of your spiritual habits? How faithful are you in them? What helps or hinders your faithfulness?
2. Discuss with your group the parallels that are present in Daniel 6 with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
3. The author notes that the three kings in the book of Daniel had varied responses when they were faced with a bold witness by the men from Judah and their sovereign God. Discuss with your group the responses of Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, and Belshazzar and how these types of responses correlate with the types of responses people have today when encountering the Savior.
4. In reading this chapter, what impacted you most and why?

# WEEK 8

## Statues and Beasts (Ch. 8)

1. Briefly discuss with your group each part of the statue of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2), what each represents, and when each was or will be fulfilled.
2. How do each of the four beasts in Daniel 7 correspond to the statue in Daniel 2?
3. The author notes that "the prophecies found in Daniel chapters 2 and 7 contain the broadest sweep of world history that the Lord ever gave to any of the Old Testament prophet." How has studying these prophecies changed your understanding of today's world events?
4. In reading this chapter, what impacted you most and why?

## The G.O.A.T. Beats the Ram (Ch. 9)

1. In what ways does the book of Daniel prove that the Bible is the greatest Book of all time?
2. Why was part of Daniel written in Hebrew and part written in Aramaic?
3. Prior to this study, how much did you know about God's two distinct programs: one for the Jewish people and one for the rest of humanity? How does properly understanding this change your understanding of the Bible as a whole?
4. Discuss Daniel's vision of the ram and goat and the meanings of the horns (Daniel 8:19–22).
5. What is the significance of Daniel's prophecies being sealed (Daniel 8:26) and the prophecies of Revelation being unsealed (Revelation 22:10)?
6. In reading this chapter, what impacted you most and why?

## Delayed Delivery of a Divine Directive

(Ch. 10)

1. Read Daniel 10:10–14. What insights do we gain about prayer and spiritual warfare in these few verses?

2. Discuss within your group the following excerpt regarding the delay in the angel coming to Daniel. Look up and read aloud the parenthetical verses as time allows.

“Apparently, the enemy did not want this message delivered because of its vital importance. God was sending advance intel to Daniel about what would happen to the Jewish people in the future. Satan hates the Jewish people. Make no mistake about it, spiritual warfare is at the root of antisemitism. Satan hates them because they are God’s chosen people through whom the Messiah came and it is their corporate salvation (Romans 11:26) that will usher in the return of Christ at the end of the tribulation period (Zechariah 12:10; Matthew 23:39; Revelation 12:6, 13–17) to set up the millennial kingdom (Revelation 20:1–6), where our Jewish Savior will literally rule and, reign from Jerusalem (2 Samuel 7:12–13).”

3. In reading this chapter, what impacted you most and why?

# WEEK 11

## The Beast Kingdom (Ch. 11)

1. Discuss the fourth kingdom of Daniel's vision. Is it strong? Weak? Where does it seem to be geographically located?
2. Discuss the ten toes (Daniel 2) and ten horns (Daniel 7:24; Revelation 17:12) and who or what they might be.
3. What is the fifth kingdom, described in Daniel 2:34–45, Daniel 7:27, and Revelation 20:1–7? Discuss how this kingdom will be different from all other kingdoms.
4. In reading this chapter, what impacted you most and why?

## The Beast of the Kingdom (Ch. 12)

1. In what ways is the antichrist *anti*?
2. By what other names is the antichrist known?
3. After reading the author's summary of the antichrist's role during the Tribulation and the correlating verses, what became more clear to you about the chronology of the end times? How have the pieces come together in your own understanding? Are there parts you would like to study more? Remember: "God sovereignly designed Scripture so that those who really want to understand God's plan for the ages would dig in and study the totality of the canon available to them in their own times."
4. Within the world today, we certainly see the spirit of the antichrist. But can we know who the antichrist actually is? Why or why not?
5. In reading this chapter, what impacted you most and why?

# WEEK 13

## The 70 Weeks of Years (Ch. 13)

1. Have someone in your group read aloud Daniel 9:24–27. How is understanding Daniel 9, and this passage in particular, crucial to understanding Bible prophecy as a whole?
2. Discuss the 70 “sevens” found within Daniel 9:24–27. What events correspond to the “weeks”? What are the six purposes of the prophecy?
3. Discuss the “gap” between verses 26 and 27 of Daniel 9. What is the significance of the “church age”—the time in which we are currently living—in God’s big-picture plan?
4. Prior to this study, how much importance had you placed on God’s specific prophetic plan for the Jewish people? After this study, how has your understanding changed?



# WEEK 14

## The End of Days

(Ch. 14)

1. In what ways is the book of Daniel a microcosm of the Bible itself?
2. We see in Daniel 11:40–45 that not all countries will submit to the antichrist’s rule during the tribulation. How does the antichrist react; what about the nations (Revelation 16:12–14)? (Hint: What starts as a military campaign ends in rebellion against Jesus Christ Himself at His return.)
3. In what ways today are the prophecies of Daniel (12:4, 9–10) being “unsealed”?
4. In reading this chapter, what impacted you most and why?

# WEEK 15

## Filling in the Gaps (Ch. 15)

1. In what ways does the Olivet Discourse mirror the book of Revelation? (The Olivet Discourse is found in Matthew 24–25, Mark 13, and Luke 21:5–36.)
2. Of the two views of the intended audience for the Olivet Discourse (i.e., those in the church age vs. a Jewish audience during the Tribulation), which view does the author accept as correct and why?
3. What is the best way to approach or interpret the symbolism found within the book of Revelation (and throughout Scripture)?
4. Why is the second half of the tribulation referred to as “Jacob’s trouble” in Jeremiah 30:7? What do corresponding passages tell us about this time (Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21; Revelation 12; Matthew 24)?
5. What is the key purpose of the tribulation period (Zechariah 13:8–9; Romans 11:26)?
6. In reading this chapter, what impacted you most and why?

# WEEK 16

## Starting Point (Ch. 16)

1. How is believing facts *about* Jesus different from believing *in* Jesus?
  
2. Discuss with your group the “7 Steps on the Romans Road to Salvation.”
  - The Need (Romans 3:23)
  - The Consequences of Sin (Romans 6:23)
  - God’s Solution/Provision (Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8)
  - How to Receive Salvation (Romans 10:9–10)
  - The Guarantee of Salvation (Romans 10:13)
  - The Results of Salvation (Romans 5:1; Romans 8:1)
  - The Protection of Salvation (Romans 8:38–39)
  
3. Have you personally surrendered to Christ and accepted Him as your Savior? If so, share your testimony with the group. If not, please consider doing so now (see the [The ABC’s of Salvation](#) at the end of this document) or speak with your group or small-group leader. They’d love to show you how you, too, can become a Christian!
  
4. In reading this chapter, what impacted you most and why?

## Practicing Daniel's Pattern of Prayer

(Ch. 17)

1. The author points out Daniel's pattern of prayer. On a scale of 1–5, with **1** being “we’re complete opposites” and **5** being “we’re almost twins,” how would you rate how like Daniel you are when it comes to your prayer life? (Circle your rating.) Discuss each line item with your group.

• When faced with a trial, prayer is my first reaction.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
• I walk in faith toward the challenge, not away from it.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
• I regularly carve out time to pray and seek the Lord.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
• I invite others to pray with me.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
• I approach God humbly.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
• My primary focus in prayer is God's will.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
• When I pray, I trust God to answer in His time.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

2. How can our physical posture affect how we pray?
3. What are some specific steps you think the Lord may be leading you to implement next in your life? Write those down and set some specific prayer goals with dates attached to them. Share with your group and ask for accountability.
4. In reading this chapter, what impacted you most and why?

# WEEK 18

## Dare to Be a Daniel (Ch. 18)

1. What key stage-setting events are we witnessing today in preparation for future prophecies to be fulfilled?
2. In what ways is persecution against Christians and the Bible increasing today? (Keep in mind that persecution has many forms, not just physical harm or death.)
3. In what ways should we “dare to be a Daniel” in these darkening days? Are there specific areas in your life in which you need to take a courageous stand for the truth? If so, share with your group and ask for prayer and accountability.
4. In reading this chapter, what impacted you most and why?

# THE ABC'S OF SALVATION

You can't earn salvation. None of us are good enough to obtain it. Salvation is a gift. Jesus paid it all. We need only to receive the gift and put our trust in Jesus alone for salvation. How? It's as simple as A, B, C.

**A** **Admit** that you are a sinner. No one is perfect. We all fall short. Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 6:23 says, "The wages [payment] of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**B** **Believe** that Jesus is God's Son and that He died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins. He took on your sins so that you could have His righteousness given to you. Romans 5:8 says, "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

**C** **Confess** Jesus as your Lord. This means you turn from trusting in yourself or anything else for salvation and turn to Christ. You decide to trust Him alone as your Forgiver and make Him the King of your life. This doesn't mean you will never mess up again. Rather, it means you will grow spiritually and serve Him and learn His ways. Romans 10:9 says, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."



# THE BOOK OF DANIEL



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