

BRBC Bible Study Series - Daniel - Bible Study # 1

Daniel 1: Whose Student Are You?

Main Passage: Daniel 1

Purpose of the Study Exploring how Daniel and his friends remained faithful to God while living in a pagan culture. It challenges us to consider who is shaping our thinking, values, identity and worldview.

Opening Prayer "Father, in a world of competing voices, help us to learn from You above all others. Give us wisdom, courage and discernment so that we might remain faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, Amen."

1. Read the Passage Daniel 1. Notice repeated references to learning, training, wisdom, understanding and knowledge. See what Babylon attempted to change and Daniel refused to compromise.

Questions

- Why was Babylon interested in educating captives?
- What pressures did Daniel face?
- What does Daniel choose to resist?

2. Context and Summary

Daniel was taken into exile ~605 BC when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah. Young, gifted Israelites were selected for a three-year programme designed to transform them into loyal Babylonian servants. Babylon sought to reshape Daniel's: Home, Culture, Language, Education, Identity, Worship - Yet Daniel remained faithful to God.

OT Connections

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - God's people taught to learn God's ways.
- Psalm 1 - The blessed person delights in God's law.
- Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.
- Jeremiah 29:4-7 - Faithfulness while living in exile.

NT Connections

- Romans 12:1-2 - Do not be conformed to this world.
- Colossians 2:8 - Beware deceptive philosophies.
- Philippians 2:15 - Shine as lights in the world.
- 1 Peter 2:11-12 - Live faithfully as exiles.

Questions

- In what ways are Christians today living in exile?
- What voices are shaping our thinking?
- What lessons can we learn from Daniel's response?

3. Key Themes and Reflections

The Battle for the Mind The first battle was not physical but intellectual and spiritual. Babylon wanted Daniel's allegiance by shaping his thinking. *John Stott: "The greatest enemy of the church today is not opposition but assimilation."*

Convictions Before Crisis Daniel's courage did not suddenly appear. He had already decided whom he would serve. Daniel 1:8 says: "Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself." *Charles Spurgeon: "A man who can stand before men has first learned to kneel before God."*

God Is Sovereign The chapter repeatedly reminds us that God remains in control.

- God gave Judah into Nebuchadnezzar's hand.
- God gave Daniel favour.
- God gave wisdom.

The exile wasn't evidence of God's absence but of His sovereignty. *Augustine: "God is so good that He would never allow evil if He could not bring good from it."*

Questions

- What shapes your worldview most strongly?
- Where are Christians under pressure to conform today?

4. A Word to the Church

- Are we allowing Scripture to shape our thinking more than society?
- Are we discipling people deeply enough to withstand cultural pressures and equipping younger generations to stand firm in Christ?

Challenge

Babylon wanted Daniel's mind before it wanted his service. The world still works the same way today. The church must not merely produce attendees; it must produce disciples.

Questions

- What values are shaping BRBC?
- How might we have quietly conformed to culture?

5. Practical Action

- Identify main influences shape your thinking?
- Increase time with Scripture than with social media.
- Encourage those standing for Christ under pressure.
- Pray for young Christians in education or at work.

Areas for Prayer

- Greater biblical wisdom, discernment regarding cultural influences & Courage to stand for Christ.
- Young people within BRBC.
- Christians facing hostility worldwide.

Closing Scripture Meditation

Daniel 1:8 "But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself..."

Final Prayer "Lord, help us to be faithful disciples in an increasingly hostile world. Give us Daniel's wisdom, Daniel's courage and Daniel's faithfulness. May Brighton Road Baptist Church be a community that learns from You, lives for You and shines for You. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

BRBC Bible Study Series - Daniel - Bible Study # 2

Daniel 2: Only God Knows the Future

Main Passage: Daniel 2

Purpose of the Study

Exploring Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Daniel's God-given interpretation and the truth that while humans cannot know the future, God rules over history from beginning to end.

Opening Prayer

"Lord God, You are the Alpha and the Omega, declaring the end from the beginning. Help us trust Your sovereignty over history and over our lives. Amen."

1. Read the Passage Daniel 2.

Notice the contrast between Babylon's wise men and Daniel. Observe the progression of kingdoms and God's eternal kingdom.

Questions

- Why were the wise men unable to help?
- Why does Daniel immediately turn to prayer?
- What is the significance of the stone?

2. Context and Summary

Nebuchadnezzar dreams of a great statue representing successive world empires. God reveals both dream and interpretation to Daniel.

The chapter demonstrates:

- Human wisdom is limited.
- God knows all things.
- Earthly kingdoms rise and fall.
- God's kingdom will endure forever.

OT Connections

- Isaiah 46:9-10 - God declares the end from the beginning.
- Psalm 2 - God's King triumphs over earthly rulers.
- Genesis 41 - Joseph & Pharaoh's dreams.
- Isaiah 9:6-7 - Messiah's everlasting kingdom.

NT Connections

- Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come.
- Revelation 11:15 - The kingdoms of this world become Christ's kingdom.
- Colossians 1:16-17 - Christ sustains all things.
- Hebrews 12:28 - An unshakeable kingdom.

Questions

- Why do people long to know the future?
- How does God's sovereignty bring comfort?
- What temporary kingdoms do people trust today?

3. Key Themes and Reflections

Human Wisdom Has Limits

Babylon possessed immense knowledge but could not answer the king's greatest question. *John Calvin: "Man's mind is a perpetual factory of idols."*

Prayer Precedes Revelation

Daniel responds to crisis by gathering believers to pray. *E.M. Bounds: "Prayer is not preparation for the greater work; prayer is the greater work."*

God's Kingdom Will Prevail

All earthly powers eventually fall. The stone points ultimately to Christ and His everlasting kingdom. *Irenaeus: "Christ became what we are that He might bring us to be what He is."*

Questions

- What does Daniel 2 say about political power?
- Why is prayer often our last rather than first response?
- How should we view current world events?

4. A Word to the Church

- Are we more influenced by fear or faith?
- Are we people of prayer during uncertainty?
- Do we live for temporary or eternal kingdoms?

Challenge

The future belongs neither to governments nor economies but to Jesus Christ.

Questions

- What anxieties about the future need surrendering to God?
- How can BRBC demonstrate confidence in God's kingdom?
- How should BRBC's priorities change if God's kingdom is truly eternal?

5. Practical Action

- Turn a current worry into a prayer.
- Share God's hope with someone anxious about the future.

Areas for Prayer

- Trust in God's sovereignty.
- Peace amid uncertainty.
- National & world leaders.
- The advance of God's kingdom.

Closing Scripture Meditation

Daniel 2:44 "The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed."

Final Prayer

"Lord, thank You that world history and my history is in Your hands. Help us trust Your kingdom above every earthly kingdom. Amen."

BRBC Bible Study Series - Daniel - Bible Study # 3

Daniel 3: Can God Intervene in Our World?

Main Passage: Daniel 3

Purpose of the Study Examining the fiery furnace, asking whether God still intervenes in human affairs. Exploring faith, courage, suffering, faithful witness and God's presence with His people. Considering whether our faith depends upon God's deliverance or upon God's character.

Opening Prayer "Lord, strengthen our faith when we face pressure and opposition. Help us trust You whether You deliver us or not. Give us courage to stand for You and confidence that You are always with us. Amen."

1. Read the Passage Read Daniel 3 - Notice: The pressure placed upon Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The courage of their response. The king's anger and reaction. God's intervention and presence in the furnace. The impact of their witness upon Nebuchadnezzar.

Questions

- What pressures did they face?
- Why did they refuse compromise?
- What impresses you most about their response?
- How would you describe their faith?

2. Context and Summary

Nebuchadnezzar makes a huge golden image, commanding all people to bow in worship. Refusal means certain death in a blazing furnace. For most people the choice seems obvious: bow and live. Yet Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refuse to worship anyone except the Lord. Their obedience places them in direct conflict with the most powerful ruler on earth. God does not prevent the trial, but He joins them within it. The furnace becomes a place of divine presence, protection and testimony.

OT Connections

- Exodus 20:3-5 – No other gods.
- Isaiah 43:2 – God's presence through fire.
- Psalm 46 – God our refuge and strength.
- Deuteronomy 6:4-5 – Exclusive devotion to God.
- Isaiah 26:3-4 – Trusting the Lord forever.

NT Connections

- Matthew 28:20 – "I am with you always."
- Acts 5:29 – Obey God rather than men.
- 1 Peter 4:12-16 – Fiery trials.
- Romans 8:35-39 – Nothing can separate us from Christ.
- Revelation 2:10 – Be faithful unto death.

Questions

- Why is idolatry so dangerous, what forms does it take today and why is compromise often so tempting?
- How does God often meet His people in suffering?

3. Key Themes and Reflections

Faith Before Deliverance The three men demonstrate one of the greatest statements of faith in Scripture: "But even if he does not..." (Daniel 3:18) Their confidence is not based on receiving a miracle but on knowing God. *A.W. Tozer* wrote: "Faith rests upon God's character." True faith trusts God even when the outcome is uncertain.

God Is Present in the Fire The greatest miracle may not be their rescue but God's presence. The king expected to see three men consumed. Instead he saw four men walking unharmed. Many Christians testify that God's presence becomes most real during seasons of suffering.

Courage Inspires Others Their faith became a witness to a pagan king and an entire empire. Their willingness to stand when others bowed, brought glory to God. *Tertullian* wrote: "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."

Christ in the Furnace Many see in the mysterious fourth figure a picture of Christ Himself. Whether a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ or an angel, the message is clear: God does not abandon His people in their trials. Jesus Himself entered the furnace of suffering on our behalf so that we might never face suffering alone.

Questions

- Would your faith survive 'unanswered' prayers?
- How has God met you in difficult seasons?
- What idols challenge us today?
- What gives believers courage to stand firm?

4. A Word to the Church

- Are we willing to stand in contrast to culture?
- Do we trust God during hardship and uncertainty?
- How do we encourage faithfulness in one another?
- Are we preparing younger believers Christians to stand firm in a changing culture?

Challenge The church must be willing to stand when others bow. Every generation faces pressure to compromise. Faithfulness to Christ will sometimes place believers at odds with society, but courageous obedience remains one of the church's most powerful witnesses. The question is not whether pressure will come, but whether we will remain faithful when it does.

Questions

- How can BRBC support Christians facing opposition?
- What would courageous faith in Horsham look like?

5. Practical Action

- Identify modern idols competing for your loyalty.
- Stand publicly for Christ in an appropriate way this week.
- Read and reflect on Romans 8:31-39.

Areas for Prayer

- Courage, perseverance and faithfulness under pressure.
- Christ's presence in suffering.
- Young Christians facing cultural pressures.
- Bold witness within Horsham and beyond.

Closing Scripture Meditation Daniel 3:17 "The God we serve is able to deliver us."

Final Prayer "Lord, whether through deliverance or endurance, help us glorify You in every trial. Give us the courage of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and help us trust that You are with us in every furnace we face. May Brighton Road Baptist Church be known for faithful, courageous and joyful obedience to Jesus Christ. Amen."

BRBC Bible Study Series - Daniel - Bible Study # 4

Daniel 4: A Tale of Two Kings

Main Passage Daniel 4

Purpose of the Study Contrasting Nebuchadnezzar's pride with God's sovereignty, exploring the difference between earthly kingship and God's eternal reign. Challenging us to consider what kind of kingdom we are building and which King we are truly serving.

Opening Prayer "Lord, protect us from pride and teach us humility before Your greatness. Help us to recognise Your rule over our lives and to follow the example of Jesus, our true King. Amen."

1. Read the Passage Read Daniel 4. Notice: The king's confidence in his own achievements. God's gracious warning before judgment. The king's humiliation, restoration and change in his understanding of God.

Questions

- What led to Nebuchadnezzar's downfall?
- Why did God warn him before judging him?
- What eventually changed him?
- What lessons about leadership emerge?

2. Context and Summary

Much of Daniel 4 is written as a personal testimony from Nebuchadnezzar himself.

Having conquered nations and built one of the greatest cities in the ancient world, the king became consumed with pride. Although God warned him through a dream and through Daniel's interpretation, he refused to humble himself.

One year later, while admiring Babylon, he declared: "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built..." (Daniel 4:30)

Immediately God's judgment fell. Nebuchadnezzar lost his sanity and lived like an animal until he finally acknowledged that God alone is sovereign.

The chapter ends not with judgment but worship.

OT Connections

- Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goes before destruction."
- Isaiah 40:21-24 - Early rulers as nothing before God.
- Psalm 115:3 - God does whatever pleases Him.
- 1 Samuel 2:7-8 - God raises up and brings low.

NT Connections

- Philippians 2:5-11 - Christ's humility and exaltation.
- James 4:6 - God opposes pride, gives grace to humble.
- Luke 18:9-14 - The Pharisee and the tax collector.
- Matthew 23:12 - The humble will be exalted.

Questions

- Why is pride so destructive?
- Why do people find humility difficult?
- How does God sometimes humble people today?
- What does genuine repentance look like?

3. Key Themes and Reflections

Pride Blinds Nebuchadnezzar forgot that everything he possessed had been given by God. Success can be more spiritually dangerous than failure because it tempts us to trust ourselves rather than God. *Augustine wrote: "It was pride that changed angels into devils; humility makes men saints."*

God Opposes Pride but Gives Grace The purpose of God's discipline was not destruction but restoration. Even in judgment, God was merciful. The king's kingdom was preserved for him until he learned the lesson God wanted him to learn.

Christ the True King - Daniel 4 presents two very different kings. Nebuchadnezzar grasped for glory. Jesus laid glory aside. Nebuchadnezzar exalted himself. Jesus humbled Himself. Nebuchadnezzar was brought low. Jesus willingly went low and was therefore highly exalted. *John Stott wrote: "At the heart of Christianity stands a self-giving King." Andrew Murray wrote: "Humility is the bloom and beauty of holiness."*

Questions

- Where is pride most likely to appear in your life?
- How can success become a spiritual danger?

4. A Word to the Church

- Do we celebrate God's work more than our achievements?
- Are we marked by humility, gratitude and dependence?
- Are we seeking God's glory or our own reputation?
- Do we pray as though success depends upon God?

Challenge God can do more through a humble church than through a talented but self-reliant church. The most dangerous words a church can say are: "Look what we have built." The healthiest words are: "Look what God has done."

Questions

- How can BRBC cultivate humility?
- What signs of pride should we watch for?

5. Practical Action

Thank God daily for specific blessings and opportunities. Serve anonymously this week without seeking recognition. Encourage those whose service often goes unnoticed.

Areas for Prayer

- Humility and teachability.
- Gratitude rather than entitlement.
- Christ-like character & Protection from pride.
- Dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

Closing Scripture Meditation

Daniel 4:37 "Those who walk in pride he is able to humble."

Final Prayer "King of kings, forgive us when we become proud and self-sufficient. Teach us the humility of Christ and help us to remember that every good gift comes from You. May Brighton Road Baptist Church be known not for its own strength, but for its dependence upon You. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

BRBC Bible Study Series - Daniel - Bible Study # 5

Daniel 5: God's Warning

Main Passage: Daniel 5

Purpose of the Study To examine God's warning to Belshazzar and consider how God speaks, warns and calls people to repentance today. This study reminds us that God's patience is an expression of His mercy, but His patience should never be mistaken for indifference. The God who warns is also the God who judges and the God who saves.

Opening Prayer "Lord, give us ears to hear Your warnings and hearts quick to obey. Amen. Keep us from spiritual blindness and help us respond humbly to Your voice. Amen."

1. Read the Passage - Daniel 5 - Notice: Belshazzar's attitude toward God. The misuse of the Temple vessels. The king's fear when the writing appears. Daniel's courage in speaking God's truth. The contrast between human pride and divine authority.

Questions

- Why was Belshazzar judged?
- What warning signs did he ignore?
- Why was the use of the Temple vessels such a serious offence?
- List differences between Daniel and Belshazzar.

2. Context and Summary

Babylon appeared secure and invincible, protected by massive walls and military strength. Yet while enemy forces gathered outside the city, Belshazzar held a lavish feast for a thousand nobles. In an act of arrogance, he ordered the sacred vessels taken from God's Temple in Jerusalem to be brought into the banquet hall. As the king and his guests praised their false gods, a mysterious hand appeared and wrote a message upon the wall. The king was shaken, but none of Babylon's wise men could explain the writing. Daniel was summoned and reminded Belshazzar of God's dealings with Nebuchadnezzar. Belshazzar knew the story of Nebuchadnezzar's humbling, yet failed to learn from it.

OT Connections

- Proverbs 29:1 - Rejecting repeated correction.
- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - Every deed faces judgment.
- Isaiah 47 - Babylon's downfall foretold.
- Psalm 90:12 - Number our days wisely.
- Habakkuk 2:20 - The Lord reigns over all nations.

NT Connections

- Luke 12:16-21 - The rich fool who ignored eternity.
- John 8:1-11 - Mercy and repentance.
- Romans 2:4-5 - God's kindness leading to repentance.
- Hebrews 9:27 - Judgment after death.
- Revelation 20:11-15 - Final judgment before God.

Questions

- Why do people ignore God's warnings?
- How can comfort, wealth, or success dull spiritual awareness?
- What lessons can we learn from Belshazzar's failure to learn from history?

3. Key Themes and Reflections

God Is Patient Belshazzar was not judged without warning. He had witnessed God's dealings with Nebuchadnezzar and had access to Daniel's testimony. Daniel's indictment is striking: "Though you knew all this, you have not humbled yourself" (Daniel 5:22). God's patience had provided opportunity for repentance. *Thomas Watson wrote: "God's patience should lead us to repentance."*

God Sees Everything Belshazzar may have believed his actions were insignificant, but heaven saw them clearly. The God who numbers our days also weighs our hearts. Nothing escapes His notice: Our words. Our attitudes. Our private actions. Our worship.

Judgment Is Certain The words on the wall declared God's verdict. Belshazzar's kingdom, power and achievements could not save him from accountability before God.

Mercy and Judgment Meet in God The same God who judged Belshazzar is the God who repeatedly warns sinners before judgment comes. God takes no pleasure in judgment. His warnings are expressions of His mercy and invitations to repentance. *John Chrysostom wrote: "God threatens punishment not because He desires to punish, but because He desires to save."*

Questions

- How should awareness of judgment affect our priorities?
- Why should repentance never be delayed?
- How does God's patience differ from God's approval?
- What areas of your life should you address today?

4. A Word to the Church

- How can we listen carefully to God's voice in Scripture?
- Are we taking holiness seriously?
- Are we learning from God's past dealings?
- Are we responding quickly when God convicts us?

Challenge We must guard against spiritual complacency - being comfortable with God's blessings while neglecting obedience to His Word. Throughout Scripture and church history, renewal has often begun when God's people humbled themselves and responded to God's warnings.

Questions

- What attitudes or habits might God be challenging within BRBC and how can we cultivate a spirit of teachability?
- Does human approval matter more to us than God's?

5. Practical Action

- Read Psalm 139:23-24 each day, confess known sin quickly and honestly.
- Invite a trusted Christian friend to help accountability.

Areas for Prayer

- Genuine repentance & Personal holiness.
- Spiritual discernment & Revival in BRBC.
- Soft hearts that respond quickly to God's voice.

Closing Scripture Meditation Daniel 5:27 "You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting."

Final Prayer "Merciful God, thank You for Your patience and faithfulness. Forgive us all spiritual complacency. Give us humble hearts that listen, repent and obey. May Brighton Road Baptist Church be a people who walk faithfully before You and respond quickly to Your Spirit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

BRBC Bible Study Series - Daniel - Bible Study # 6

Daniel 6: The Difference One Man Can Make in the Hands of a Faithful God

Main Passage: Daniel 6

Purpose of the Study Exploring how God uses one faithful believer to influence an entire nation. Daniel's life demonstrates that extraordinary impact often grows out of ordinary sustained faithfulness. This study challenges us to consider what God can do through believers who remain steadfast in prayer, integrity and obedience.

Opening Prayer "Lord, make us faithful in small things and courageous in great things. Help us to stand firm for You regardless of the cost, trusting You with outcomes. Amen."

1. Read the Passage - Daniel 6 - Notice: Daniel's reputation among those around him. The jealousy and opposition he faced. His response when prayer became illegal. God's deliverance and the king's response. The influence of one faithful believer upon an entire kingdom.

Questions

- What distinguished Daniel from the other officials?
- Why was he targeted by his enemies?
- What qualities made him trustworthy?

2. Context and Summary

Daniel is now an elderly man, probably in his eighties. He has served faithfully through multiple kings and empires. His integrity and competence lead King Darius to place him in a position of great responsibility. Unable to find any fault in his work, Daniel's enemies target the one area they know cannot be compromised - his devotion to God. When prayer is outlawed, Daniel continues exactly as before: "He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed." Daniel is thrown into the lions' den, yet God delivers him. What his enemies intended for evil becomes a powerful testimony to God's faithfulness.

OT Connections

- Psalm 57 - Confidence in God amid danger.
- Psalm 91 - God's protection over those who trust Him.
- Genesis 39 - Joseph's integrity in a hostile environment.
- 1 Samuel 17 - Standing against overwhelming opposition.

NT Connections

- Matthew 5:16 - Let your light shine before others.
- Acts 4:19-20 - Obeying God rather than men.
- Hebrews 11:33-34 - Faith shutting the mouths of lions.
- 1 Peter 2:12 - Living honourably among unbelievers.

Questions

- What habits sustained Daniel through decades of service?
- How can one faithful person influence a workplace, family, church, or community?
- How should we respond when obedience is costly?

3. Key Themes and Reflections

Consistency Matters Daniel's courage in public was built upon faithfulness in private. The habits he practised daily prepared him for the crisis he could not foresee. His enemies could predict exactly what he would do because his devotion to God was so consistent.

Prayer Sustains Faithfulness Daniel's strength came not from personality but from communion with God. Prayer was not an emergency measure; it was his way of life. *Martin Luther wrote: "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."*

God Honours Faithfulness God did not spare Daniel from opposition, but He remained with him through it. The miracle in the lions' den reminds us that God is able to deliver His people, though His greatest concern is always their faithfulness rather than their comfort. *Charles Spurgeon wrote: "God is too good to be unkind and too wise to be mistaken."*

One Life Can Make a Difference Daniel never ruled an empire, commanded an army, or led a revolution. Yet through simple faithfulness he influenced kings, governments and generations. His life points us to Jesus Christ, the perfectly faithful servant who stood firm before earthly rulers and whose obedience changed the world.

Questions

- What spiritual habits sustain you during difficult seasons?
- What kind of legacy are you building?
- How can prayer become a greater priority in your life?

4. A Word to the Church

- Are we known for integrity and faithfulness?
- Are we faithful when nobody is watching?
- Are we influencing our community through consistent Christian witness?

Challenge God often changes communities through faithful individuals. The world is often impressed by talent, influence and success. God frequently works through humble believers who simply remain faithful year after year. Daniel reminds us that influence is not measured by popularity but by faithfulness.

Questions

- What influence could BRBC have through faithful living?
- How can we strengthen our prayer lives together?
- How can we support believers facing pressure at work, school, or home?
- What would it look like for BRBC to be known for integrity throughout Horsham?

5. Practical Action

- Pray regularly for courage to remain faithful.
- Look for opportunities to demonstrate integrity this week.
- Encourage others facing opposition.
- Read Psalm 91 and reflect upon God's faithfulness.

Areas for Prayer

- Faithfulness & Integrity.
- Prayerfulness & Christian witness in Horsham.
- Courage under pressure.

Closing Scripture Meditation Daniel 6:10 "He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before."

Final Prayer "Lord, make us faithful like Daniel. Help us to trust You in every circumstance, to remain steadfast in prayer and to live with integrity before a watching world. May Brighton Road Baptist Church be known as a people who stand firm, love deeply and honour You in all things. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

BRBC Bible Study Series - Daniel - Bible Study # 7

Daniel 7: The Son of Man and the Beastly Kingdoms

Main Passage: Daniel 7

Purpose of the Study To understand Daniel's vision of worldly kingdoms and the eternal reign of the Son of Man. This study helps us see history from heaven's perspective and encourages us to place our confidence not in earthly powers but in the everlasting kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Opening Prayer "Lord, help us see beyond earthly powers and trust Your everlasting kingdom. Open our eyes to Your glory and strengthen our hope in Your final victory. Amen."

1. Read the Passage Instead of interpreting someone else's dream, Daniel receives a vision himself. Notice: The four beasts rising from the sea. The contrast between the beasts and the Son of Man. The appearance of the Ancient of Days. The promises given to God's people.

Questions

- What do the beasts represent?
- What stands out about the Son of Man?

2. Context and Summary

Daniel sees four great beasts emerge from the sea. These earthly empires appear humanly impressive, but heaven sees them as destructive and opposed to God. The Ancient of Days sits upon His throne in absolute authority and judgment. One "like a Son of Man" approaches Him and receives an everlasting kingdom. While earthly kingdoms rise and fall, God's kingdom remains forever.

OT Connections

- Psalm 2 - God's King reigning over the nations.
- Isaiah 9:6-7 - The everlasting kingdom of the Messiah.
- Daniel 2 - The stone that becomes an eternal kingdom.
- Psalm 110:1-2 - The Messiah reigning in power.
- Ezekiel 1 - A vision of God's heavenly throne.

NT Connections

- Matthew 24:30 - The coming of the Son of Man.
- Mark 14:61-62 - Jesus applies Daniel 7 to Himself.
- Revelation 1:12-18 - The glorified Christ.
- Revelation 5 - The Lamb receiving authority and worship.
- Philippians 2:9-11 - Every knee bowing before Christ.

Questions

- What does this chapter teach about God's view of power?
- How does Jesus fulfil Daniel's vision?
- How does this passage help us understand world events?

3. Key Themes and Reflections

Human Power Becomes Beastly When human authority rejects God's rule, it often becomes oppressive and destructive. Throughout history, governments, empires and leaders repeatedly demonstrate humanity's tendency toward pride, violence and self-exaltation. Daniel reminds us that political power alone cannot save the world.

Jesus Is the Son of Man The title "Son of Man" becomes Jesus' favourite description of Himself throughout the Gospels. Unlike the beasts, Jesus rules with righteousness, justice, humility and compassion. He is fully human, yet He receives worship, authority and an everlasting kingdom. *Athanasius wrote: "The Son of God became man that men might become sons of God."*

The Ancient of Days Reigns While earthly kingdoms appear powerful, Daniel sees that ultimate authority belongs to God alone. His throne is not threatened by elections, wars, revolutions, or global crises.

The Kingdom Belongs to the Saints One of the great surprises of the chapter is that God's people share in Christ's victory and kingdom. *N.T. Wright wrote: "Jesus' kingdom is not about escaping the world but renewing it."*

Questions

- What worldly powers compete for our trust today?
- How does Christ's kingdom differ from earthly kingdoms?
- Why do Christians sometimes place too much hope in politics or leaders?
- How does this vision strengthen believers facing opposition or uncertainty?

4. A Word to the Church

- Are we more excited about politics or God's kingdom?
- Do we live as kingdom citizens throughout the week?
- Are we allowing current events to create fear or strengthen our faith?
- Are we helping one another maintain an eternal perspective?

Challenge

The kingdom of Christ will outlast every earthly empire. News headlines may dominate our attention, but Daniel reminds us that history is ultimately moving toward the visible reign of Jesus Christ. The church's confidence must never rest in political systems, economic prosperity, or cultural influence, but in the risen and reigning Son of Man.

Questions

- Where do we place our confidence?
- How can BRBC display kingdom values within Horsham?
- What does it mean to live as citizens of heaven while serving on earth?
- How can we encourage one another with the hope of Christ's return?

5. Practical Action

- Pray regularly for Christ's kingdom to come.
- Read Revelation 1 and Revelation 5 this week.
- Reflect on areas where fear may be replacing faith.
- Encourage someone who is discouraged by current events.
- Look for opportunities to demonstrate kingdom values of love, truth, justice and mercy.

Areas for Prayer

- Hope and perseverance. The persecuted church.
- Kingdom witness & confidence in Christ's reign.
- World leaders and nations.
- The global church awaiting Christ's return.

Closing Scripture Meditation Daniel 7:14 "His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

Final Prayer "Lord Jesus, Son of Man and King of kings, help us to trust Your kingdom above every earthly power. Strengthen our hope, deepen our faith and keep our eyes fixed upon the day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that You are Lord. May we live faithfully as citizens of Your everlasting kingdom. Amen."

BRBC Bible Study Series - Daniel - Bible Study # 8

Daniel 9: Daniel's Prayer

Main Passage Daniel 9:1-23

Purpose of the Study To learn from Daniel's prayer of confession, repentance, humility and dependence upon God. Exploring how God's Word fuels prayer, how genuine repentance opens the way for renewal and how God's people can pray for themselves, their church and their nation in times of spiritual need.

Opening Prayer "Lord, teach us to pray as Daniel prayed - with humility, faith and honesty. Open our hearts to Your Word and deepen our dependence upon You. Amen."

1. Read the Passage Daniel 9:1-23 - Notice: What prompted Daniel to pray, how often Daniel refers to God, the way Daniel confesses sin and Daniel's urgency and passion. The balance between God's holiness and God's mercy.

- What prompted Daniel to pray?
- What does Daniel teach us about approaching God?
- How does his prayer challenge your own prayers?

2. Context and Summary

Having studied the prophecy of Jeremiah, Daniel realises that the seventy years of exile are nearing completion (Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10). Daniel does not respond by calculating dates or speculating about future events. Instead, he turns to God in prayer. Daniel fasts, mourns, confesses sin and pleads for God's mercy upon Jerusalem and God's people. God's promises are invitations to prayer rather than excuses for passivity. Daniel understands that although God has promised restoration, God's people must still seek Him with repentant hearts.

OT Connections

- 2 Chronicles 7:14 - Humility, prayer and healing.
- Jeremiah 29:10-14 - The promise of restoration.
- Nehemiah 1 - National confession and intercession.
- Ezra 9 - Repentance for the sins of God's people.
- Leviticus 26:40-42 - Confession leading to restoration.
- Psalm 51 - David's prayer of repentance.

NT Connections

- Matthew 6:9-13 - The Lord's Prayer.
- Luke 18:13-14 - The humble tax collector.
- James 5:16 - The power of confession and prayer.
- 1 John 1:9 - God's promise of forgiveness.
- Romans 8:26-27 - The Spirit helping us pray.
- Hebrews 4:14-16 - Approaching God's throne with confidence.

Questions

- Why does Daniel confess sins he did not personally commit?
- What can churches learn from Daniel's concern for God's reputation?
- How should God's promises shape our prayers?

3. Key Themes and Reflections

Scripture Fuels Prayer Daniel's prayer begins with God's Word. As he studies Jeremiah's prophecy, God's promises move him to seek God's face. Healthy prayer is not separated from Scripture but grows out of it. The more we know God's Word, the more we understand God's heart and purposes.

Confession Precedes Renewal Daniel identifies himself with God's people. Repeatedly he prays: "We have sinned." Rather than blame others, Daniel takes responsibility. In Scripture, seasons of spiritual renewal are often preceded by honest confession and repentance. *John Chrysostom wrote: "Confession opens the door to God's mercy."*

God's Mercy Is Our Hope Daniel does not appeal to Israel's goodness, but to God's character. "We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy." Daniel understands that God's people are saved not by merit but by grace. *Tim Keller wrote: "The gospel is that we are saved by sheer grace."*

Prayer Changes Things God's response comes swiftly. While Daniel is still praying, God sends Gabriel with assurance and revelation. Prayer is not a religious ritual but a genuine means by which God accomplishes His purposes.

Questions

- How does Scripture shape your prayers?
- What role does confession play in your spiritual life?
- What prevents us from praying more consistently?

4. A Word to the Church

- Are we known as a praying church?
- Do we pray with expectancy and faith?
- Are we burdened for God's glory in our community?
- Do we regularly pray for spiritual renewal, confess our shortcomings and seek God's help?

Challenge

Revival has always been preceded by prayer. Throughout church history, movements of renewal have begun when ordinary believers humbled themselves before God, confessed their sins and sought Him earnestly. We mustn't merely discuss prayer but become people of prayer. The health of any church depends far more upon its prayer life than upon its programmes, resources, or activities.

Questions

- What would happen if BRBC prayed like Daniel?
- How can we encourage a stronger culture of prayer within our church and what obstacles prevent us?

5. Practical Action

- Set aside dedicated prayer time this week and pray Scripture back to God – for example the Psalms.
- Keep a list of prayers and answers to prayer.
- Pray specifically for BRBC's future ministry and witness.

Areas for Prayer

- Revival and spiritual awakening.
- Church unity and love. Local outreach and evangelism.
- Young people, families, church leaders and ministries.
- Local and national spiritual renewal.

Closing Scripture Meditation Daniel 9:18 "We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy."

Final Prayer "Merciful Father, thank You that You hear the prayers of Your people. Teach us to seek You with all our hearts, to confess our sins honestly and to trust completely in Your mercy. May Brighton Road Baptist Church be marked by prayer, repentance, faith and hope. Pour out Your Spirit upon us, upon Horsham and upon our nation for the glory of Jesus Christ. Amen."