

## DEVOTIONS THROUGH THE BOOK OF DANIEL



*“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belongs wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him.”*

-The Prophet Daniel, in Daniel 2:20-22

## **DANIEL AND THE LIFE OF CHRIST**

### **(DANIEL 1-12)**

Daniel is a figure in the Old Testament who serves as a great example of faithfulness, wisdom, and courage in the face of persecution. As a prophet and advisor to kings, Daniel lived a life that was characterized by a deep devotion to God and a willingness to put his faith into action. He faced incredible challenges, including being thrown into a lion's den, but always remained steadfast.

Daniel's life points forward to Jesus in several significant ways. First, Daniel's unwavering faithfulness to God (Dan. 1:8; 6:5) is a powerful anticipation of the sinless, perfect faithfulness that Jesus on our behalf exemplified throughout his own life. Second, Daniel acknowledged that the wisdom and guidance he gave to the kings of his day came from God (Dan. 2:27-28), and this is a reminder of the wisdom and guidance that Jesus gives to us through His teachings about living as citizens of the Kingdom of God. Third, Daniel's courage in the face of persecution (Dan. 6:10-12) is a powerful reminder of the bravery that Jesus demonstrated in the face of his own suffering and death on the cross, which He suffered in our place, on our behalf, for our sins.

As we study Daniel and reflect on the way his life points forward to Jesus, we are encouraged to follow his footsteps and embody the same qualities. We are called to remain steadfast, even in the face of trials, and to always put our trust of God into action. We are also called to be wise, and to share the good news of the Gospel with the world around us.

## **GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN DIFFICULTIES**

### **(DANIEL 1-12)**

The book of Daniel is a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness. Through the experiences of Daniel and his friends, we see how God is always in control, even when things might appear hopeless to us.

One of the accounts in Daniel is of three men who were thrown into a furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's idol. But the king was shocked to see them unscathed by the flames. We too can have confidence in God's protection in the midst of adversity. Daniel 6:23 reminds us, "My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions... because I was innocent in his sight."

Another theme that is tied in with God's faithfulness is the idea of God's kingdom being superior to earthly kingdoms. God is able to faithfully carry out His promises because He is a King whose heavenly Kingdom has no rival. Throughout, we see God bringing down the pride of kings, and elevating the faithful. In Daniel 2:44 we are told that "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor left to another people. It will crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will endure forever."

The message of Daniel is comforting, reminding us that no matter what, God is faithful, and He is always in control, and His kingdom will triumph. We can trust His protection and have confidence in His plan. May we follow the example of Daniel and his friends, and remain faithful in our trust and devotion to God, no matter the challenges that we face.

## **DANIEL'S PROPHETIC WITNESS TO CHRIST**

### **(DANIEL 1-12)**

The power of prophecy is one of the signature elements of the Book of Daniel.

In these twelve chapters, we see Daniel's prophetic visions and the way that they point forward to the coming of Jesus and the establishment of His Kingdom. For example, the vision of the four beasts (Daniel 7:2-7) is a clear reference to the kingdoms of this world that will eventually be defeated and replaced by the Kingdom of God through the arrival of Jesus Christ. This vision not only points to the eventual triumph of God's Kingdom, but it also serves as a warning to all the earthly kingdoms that would seek to elevate themselves above God.

Similarly, the vision of the seventy weeks (Daniel 9:24-27) is a powerful prophecy that speaks of the arrival of the Messiah and the establishment of his Kingdom. Through this vision, Daniel foretells the time and manner of Jesus' arrival and the events that will accompany His coming. In doing so, he offers a clear and compelling testimony to the power and sovereignty of God, and the certainty of His plans.

Throughout his visions and interpretations, from the dream of a stone not cut by human hands (Dan. 2:34, 44), to the vision of One like a Son of Man (Dan. 7:13-14), and beyond, Daniel prophetically points forward to the Kingdom of Jesus, reminding us of the ultimate triumph of God's Kingdom and the certainty of his plans for the world. As we read the book of Daniel, may we be inspired and encouraged to remain steadfast in our faith, knowing that the Kingdom of Jesus is drawing ever near.

## **FOR HIS PURPOSE AND HIS GLORY**

### **(DANIEL 1:1-7)**

In this passage, we see how the people of Judah were taken to Babylon, with Daniel and his friends captured along with other young Jews of the royal family and nobility. Here we begin to see the purpose that God had for these young men, and the rest of the people of Judah, during that time of captivity.

God had a plan for Judah in Babylon. He used the Babylonian empire to discipline His people, but He also used their time of exile as a platform to display His own power and grace. Despite the difficulties that Judah faced, God remained faithful to His promises and used their time in captivity to refine and strengthen their faith.

In this passage, we see that God's purpose for Israel was to bring glory to His name and to show His power to the nations. Through their time of exile in a foreign land, God used the Jews to demonstrate His sovereignty and grace. God's purpose for them was not just to punish them but to use their circumstances to bring about His good purposes.

Today we can trust that God has a purpose for us in every situation we face. Whether we are facing trials or difficulties, or experiencing prosperity and success, we can trust that God is at work in our lives to bring about His good purposes. Our job is to remain faithful to Him, to seek His wisdom and understanding, and to allow our lives to be a testimony for His glory.

## **FAITHFULNESS AMIDST CULTURAL PRESSURE**

### **(DANIEL 1:8-16)**

Daniel 1:8-16 shows us the incredible consistency of Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, despite the cultural pressure they faced. As captives in Babylon, they were forced to assimilate to the ways of their captors, including the consumption of forbidden food and drink.

However, Daniel and his friends refused to compromise their faith and made a bold decision to remain faithful to God despite the pressure they faced. They asked the head of the palace guard for permission to eat only vegetables and drink only water, and God graciously blessed them with good health and wisdom.

The account of Daniel and his friends is a powerful reminder of the importance of remaining faithful to God despite cultural pressure. In a world that is constantly trying to pull us away from our faith and beliefs, it can be difficult to stay committed to God and His ways. But just as Daniel and his friends stood firm in their faith, we too can remain faithful in the midst of cultural pressure and opposition.

We must remember that our ultimate loyalty and obedience should be to God and not the culture around us. We must be willing to take a stand for our faith and be bold in our commitment, even if it means facing opposition or ridicule.

In the end, Daniel and his friends were not only blessed by God, but they also became leaders in Babylon, showing the power of God in their lives. Let us strive to have the same courage and faith as Daniel and his friends, and remain committed to God, no matter what the world may say or do.



## **STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE**

### **(DANIEL 1:17-21)**

In Daniel 1:17-21, we see a great example of striving to grow in excellence, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. The young men of Israel were taken into captivity and placed in the king's palace to be trained for government service. Despite being placed in an environment where they were surrounded by idol worship and the temptations of the king's table, they stood firm in their faith and commitment to God.

As we read in verse 17, "To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and wisdom. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds." These young men didn't simply coast by and do the bare minimum; they strived for excellence in all that they did. They applied themselves to their studies, taking advantage of every opportunity to learn and grow.

This same principle applies to us as believers today. We too are called to strive for excellence, not only in our careers and education, but in every area of our lives. We should not be content with mediocrity, but instead, we should aim to work as if it were for God, and be the best that we can be in all that we do.

We can do this by dedicating ourselves to prayer and seeking God's wisdom and guidance. We can also make the most of our opportunities, putting in the extra effort to learn and grow in our knowledge and understanding. And, like Daniel, we must be willing to stand firm in our faith and make choices that honor God, even when it is difficult.

## **GODLY VS. UNGODLY ANGER**

### **(DANIEL 2:1-16)**

Daniel 2:1-16 tells us about the anger of King Nebuchadnezzar and how it affected the lives of the Israelites living in Babylon. The king was furious because no one could interpret his dream, and he ordered all the wise men to be executed. But through God's wisdom, Daniel was able to interpret the dream and reveal the king's true anger as a result of his pride and arrogance.

There are two kinds of anger. Godly anger is a powerful emotion, which was also experienced by Jesus (Mark 3:5), and it is used for good. It is a response to injustice, cruelty, or wrong-doing. This type of anger is not directed towards individuals but towards the sin or evil that is present in the world. This anger motivates us to work towards making things right and restoring what has been broken.

Ungodly anger, on the other hand, is fueled by self-centeredness, pride, and a lack of self-control. This anger is often directed towards others and leads to destructive behavior. It can cause harm to those around us and damage relationships.

In this story, King Nebuchadnezzar's anger was ungodly. This type of anger can lead to great harm, just as it did for the wise men in Babylon. But Daniel shows us how God's wisdom can be used to deal with ungodly anger. Daniel's humility and faith allowed him to interpret the king's dream and bring peace. It is important for us to recognize the difference between godly and ungodly anger. Godly anger should motivate us to bring about restoration, while ungodly anger should be recognized as a warning sign, so that we can seek guidance from God.



## **BEING A GOOD INFLUENCE**

### **(DANIEL 2:17-30)**

In Daniel 2:17-30, we see the story of Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who was tasked with finding someone who could interpret the king's dream. As he was about to kill all the wise men in the kingdom, he was stopped by Daniel who offered to help the king.

As Christians, we can learn from Daniel's example of being a good influence to those around us, even those in positions of power. We are called to be the light in the darkness, shining forth the love and grace of Christ to all those we encounter.

Just like Daniel, we can be the voice of reason, offering guidance and wisdom to those who may be lost or in need. We can be the ones who point them in the right direction, showing them the truth and helping them make better decisions. We can also offer comfort and encouragement, providing a safe haven where they can find peace and rest.

In doing so, we become ambassadors of Christ, spreading His love and compassion to all those around us. This is not just about words, but it is about actions. It is about living out our faith, and showing the love and kindness of God to those who need it the most.

Let us strive to be like Daniel, influencing those around us for good. Let us be beacons of hope, shining the light of Christ in a world that is often filled with darkness and despair. May we have the courage and faith to stand up for what is right, even when it is difficult, and may we be a positive influence on those around us, pointing them towards the love of Jesus.

## **THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST**

### **(DANIEL 2:31-49)**

In Daniel 2:31-49, we see King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great statue, with a head of gold, arms of silver, stomach and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet of iron mixed with clay. This statue represents different kingdoms that would rule the world throughout history. However, the dream continues with a rock, cut without human hands, destroying the statue and filling the earth.

This rock represents the kingdom of Christ, and the good news of his kingdom is that it will be everlasting and unshakable. No matter how much the world may change or what kingdoms may rise and fall, the kingdom of Christ will endure forever.

The dream also shows that the kingdom of Christ will come to rule the whole earth, filling it completely. This means that one day, all people will be under the rule and reign of Christ, and that his kingdom will bring peace, joy, and righteousness to all people.

In verses 44-45, we see that the kingdom of Christ will be established by God himself and that it will never be destroyed. This means that we can have complete trust and confidence in the kingdom of Christ, knowing that it will endure forever.

As believers, we are a part of this kingdom, and we have been called to live in a way that reflects the values and principles of Christ's kingdom. We are called to love one another, to be peacemakers, and to seek justice for all people. We can take comfort in the fact that the kingdom of Christ is drawing ever nearer, and that one day, all things will be made right.

## **SPIRITUAL PRESSURE TO CONFORM**

### **(DANIEL 3:1-7)**

The story of Daniel 3:1-7 is a powerful reminder of the dangers of conformity, whether to the wicked laws of unrighteous authorities, or to harmful values in society. Though the action that was being forced upon the people of Babylon was unjust, there were multiple pressures at work.

First, all the powerful and respectable members of society, including the King, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, with various officials, were leading the people to conform to the King's command together (Dan. 3:2). Second, there was a significant and overwhelming punishment in store for any individual or group who refused to conform along with everybody else (Dan. 3:6). Third, the action that was being demanded was public in nature, so anyone who did not conform would feel the disapproval and criticism of others (Dan. 3:7).

Conformity is a seductive force that can be hard to resist. It is easy to follow the crowd, to do what everyone else is doing, and to adopt the beliefs and values of the culture around us. But as this account shows, this kind of conformity can threaten to lead us away from our faith and our ability to discern right from wrong. It can lead us to compromise our beliefs, our values, and our morality in order to fit in with the crowd.

In our own lives, we too may face pressure to conform. We may be tempted to give in, to compromise. But we must be steadfast in our commitment to our faith. We must be courageous, willing to stand up for what is right, even if it means going against the grain.

## **BEING HEAVENLY-MINDED**

### **(DANIEL 3:8-23)**

In Daniel 3:8-23, we see the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who refused to bow down to the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Despite the threat of death in a blazing furnace, these three friends kept their eyes firmly fixed on heavenly things, and remained steadfast in their faith in God and held fast to their commitment to honor Him.

In today's world, it can be easy to get caught up in the things of this earth and to forget our true focus. We can be distracted by the seemingly urgent and important things of this world, and lose sight of God. But we must remember that our ultimate goal is to be heavenly-minded.

Being heavenly-minded means having a perspective that is focused on God and the things of heaven, not just on the immediate concerns of this earth. It means having a heart that is set on serving God above all else and seeking His will. This is the same perspective that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had.

The Bible says in Colossians 3:2, "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." This means that we must choose to focus on God's kingdom and not the kingdom of this world. We must choose to seek God's will in all things and to prioritize His will above everything else.

In order to be heavenly-minded, we must put God first. Let us strive to have a heart that is set on serving Him and to live a life that honors Him in all things. May we always remember that our ultimate goal is to be with Him in heaven, where we will live with Him forever.

## **JESUS IS WITH YOU IN THE FIRE**

**(DANIEL 3:24-30)**

Here we see the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who refused to bow down to the king's idol and were thrown into the fiery furnace as punishment. However, we see that not only did they survive the fiery furnace, but they were also joined by a fourth person in the fire who looked like the Son of God. This person is none other than Jesus Himself, who was with them in their time of trial.

Just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we too will face trials and temptations in our lives. But, just like Jesus was with them in the fire, He is also with us in our trials. He is our comforter and our savior, who will never leave us nor forsake us. When we are going through difficult times, it can be easy to feel like we are all alone, but the truth is that Jesus is always there with us. He is our strength and our refuge, and He will carry us through any trial that comes our way.

The key to remember in times of trial is to trust in Jesus. When we trust in him, we can have peace in the midst of chaos, and joy in the midst of sorrow. We can be confident that He will be with us, guiding us and strengthening us every step of the way. Jesus is with us in good or hard times; He is with us through blessing and even in the midst of the fire.

So, when you are going through a difficult time, remember that Jesus is with you. He loves you and will never leave you. Trust in Him and have faith that he will bring you through your trial. With Jesus by our side, we can overcome anything that comes our way.

## **SEEKING GODLY COUNSEL**

### **(DANIEL 4:1-27)**

In this passage from the book of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon learns a valuable lesson about seeking wise counsel. In chapter 4:1-27, he has a dream that troubles him and he calls upon the wise men of Babylon to interpret it. Despite their efforts, they are unable to give a satisfactory explanation. It is only when the prophet Daniel is summoned that the dream is finally understood.

Daniel's interpretation of the dream reveals that the king will be humbled and will live like a wild animal for seven years as punishment for his pride and arrogance. The dream comes true, and King Nebuchadnezzar eventually acknowledges the power of the Most High God.

This passage teaches us that it is crucial to seek good advice, especially when we are facing difficult decisions or circumstances. Like King Nebuchadnezzar, we can benefit greatly from the wisdom and experience of godly counselors like Daniel who will lovingly tell us the truth when we need to hear it.

To seek good advice, start surrounding yourself now with wise and trustworthy brothers and sisters in Christ. Be humble and open-minded. In order to receive wise counsel, we must be willing to listen and consider the advice of others, even if it goes against what we want to do. Doing these things will ensure that we not only receive guidance, but that we also have the ability to hear and act on it.



## **THE LESSON OF HUMILITY**

### **(DANIEL 4:28-33)**

King Nebuchadnezzar was a ruler who had everything a king could want. He was wealthy, powerful, and feared by many. However, despite his success and power, King Nebuchadnezzar was not content. He became prideful and boastful, thinking that he was responsible for all of his accomplishments.

One day, God humbled King Nebuchadnezzar by causing him to lose his mind and live like an animal for seven years. In Daniel 4:28-33, we see that King Nebuchadnezzar finally recognizes his pride and acknowledges that all power and might belongs to God alone. He says, “All the peoples of the earth are considered as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: ‘What have you done?’”

This story serves as a reminder that we too must be humble in all things. We must recognize that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We cannot take credit for our accomplishments and must always give him the glory. When we are humble, we are more open to the wisdom of God, and we become more willing to serve others.

Being humbled can be difficult, but it is necessary for our growth. When we are proud and boastful, we block the path of God in our lives. However, when we humble ourselves, we open our hearts to the Lord, and He begins to transform us into the person He created us to be.

## **A GOOD TESTIMONY**

### **(DANIEL 4:34-37)**

Daniel 4:34-37 tells the story of King Nebuchadnezzar who, after experiencing a vision of the Lord, gave his detailed testimony of the power and sovereignty of God. The king realized that he was but a small piece in the grand plan of God and that all of his earthly power and glory was nothing compared to the greatness of the Lord. This realization led the king to praise and glorify God, acknowledging His sovereignty over all.

In the same way, we too can give testimony of our encounter with Christ. When we come to the realization that Jesus is Lord and Savior, our lives are transformed and we can no longer deny the power of God. Our experiences with Christ shape us and change us for the better, giving us a newfound understanding of the world and our place in it.

It is through sharing our testimony that others can come to know and trust in Jesus as well. Our words and actions can have a profound impact on those around us, and by sharing our testimony, we can encourage others to seek a relationship with Christ as well.

As we reflect on King Nebuchadnezzar's testimony, let us remember the power of our own experiences with Jesus, through His amazing work in us, for us, and through us. Let us share our testimony with others, in the hopes that they too will come to know the love and grace of God. May our testimony bring glory to God and help to build up His kingdom here on earth.

## **TEMPORARY KINGDOMS**

### **(DANIEL 7:1-8)**

The vision of the kingdoms of the earth, seen by the prophet Daniel in the book of Daniel 7:1-8, is a remarkable depiction of the history of nations and empires. In this vision, Daniel saw four great beasts rising out of the sea, each of them representing a different kingdom that would rule over the earth.

The first beast was like a lion with wings, symbolizing Babylon, a powerful kingdom that ruled with strength and might. The second beast was like a bear, representing the Medo-Persian empire, known for its power and domination. The third beast was like a leopard with four wings, representing Greece, a kingdom that conquered many lands through its swiftness and cunning.

Finally, the fourth beast was terrifying and powerful, with ten horns representing the Roman Empire, which ruled with an iron fist and brought much destruction to the earth. However, despite the strength and power of these kingdoms, they were all eventually overthrown and replaced by others, just as the visions in Daniel 7 prophesied.

This vision reminds us that all earthly kingdoms, no matter how powerful, are temporary and will eventually pass away. It also reminds us that the true kingdom of God will endure forever. So let us not be distracted by the kingdoms of the earth and their temporary glories, but focus on the eternal kingdom of God and strive to live according to His principles. May we be filled with the hope and peace that comes from knowing that the kingdom of God will endure forever, and may we be faithful servants of its King, Jesus Christ.

## **JESUS, THE SON OF MAN**

### **(DANIEL 7:9-14)**

The book of Daniel is a prophetic book that foretells the coming of the Messiah. In chapter 7, Daniel sees a vision of four beasts that represent the world's great empires. However, in verse 13, he sees a figure like a son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with the authority to rule over all nations.

The figure that Daniel saw is Jesus Christ, who is the Messiah that was prophesied in the Old Testament. He came to earth to bring salvation to all people and to restore the kingdom of God. He claimed that he was the son of man in Matthew 26:64, when he said, "From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." This statement confirmed that Jesus was indeed the Messiah prophesied by Daniel, and that he had come to bring the kingdom of God to earth.

Furthermore, Jesus' authority over all nations and all powers and authorities was displayed during his earthly ministry, when he cast out demons, healed the sick, and performed miracles. He also claimed to have the authority to forgive sins, which was something only God could do. This shows that Jesus was indeed the Son of Man, and that he had the authority to rule over all nations. So let us follow Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and let us live our lives for Him.

## **CAST YOUR ANXIETIES ON HIM**

**(DANIEL 7:15-28)**

Daniel 7:15-28 speaks of a vision that Daniel had which made him anxious in his spirit (Dan. 7:15). In the vision, a terrifying beast rose up, but was then destroyed, and the kingdom was given to the people of the Most High. But Daniel did not know what all of these things meant, and he felt alarmed (Dan. 7:28).

Anxiety, such as Daniel felt, can be a debilitating condition that can take over our lives, leaving us feeling overwhelmed and helpless. However, as we look to this passage, we can find peace in knowing that God is in control. No matter what is happening in our lives, God is always on the throne and is working all things for our good and His glory.

When we feel anxious, it can be tempting to try to control the situation or fix things on our own. But, the truth is, we are not in control. Only God is. And, as we surrender our worries and fears to Him, we can find the peace and rest that we so desperately need.

So, if you're feeling anxious today, turn to the Lord and trust in His sovereignty. Remind yourself that He is in control and that He will work all things for your good. Take your anxieties to Him in prayer and ask for His peace to fill you.

God is in control, and we can trust Him with our anxieties. When we surrender our worries to Him, we can find peace in knowing that He is always on the throne and working all things for good.

So, let us trust in the Lord and find comfort in him.

## **DON'T PUT YOUR HOPE IN POLITICS**

(DANIEL 8:1-14)

In the book of Daniel, chapter 8, we see a powerful dream that was given to Daniel by God. This dream depicted a political leader, who rose to power and oppressed the people of God. The leader was depicted as a mighty ram with two horns, who conquered many nations before a goat appeared, who defeated the ram and became the ruler of the world—and yet this did not result in deliverance for God's people.

The dream is a powerful reminder of the emptiness of politics and the dangers of placing our trust in earthly leaders. It is a warning against putting our faith in the things of this world, instead of seeking the guidance and wisdom of God.

Politics, just like any other aspect of this world, is fleeting and constantly changing. We cannot put our trust in the things of this world, as they will inevitably disappoint us. Only God is constant and unchanging, and it is only in Him that we can find true peace and security.

In our modern world, it is easy to become distracted and caught up in the latest political news and events. We often find ourselves putting our trust in political leaders and systems, hoping that they will bring about the change that we desire. But this is a dangerous path, as it leads us away from the truth and the guidance of God. Instead, we must turn to God and seek His wisdom and guidance in all things. We must put our trust in Him alone and seek to live our lives according to His will. Only then will we find true peace and security, knowing that we are in the hands of a loving and faithful God.



## **SEEKING WISDOM FROM GOD**

### **(DANIEL 8:15-17)**

Daniel 8:15-17 describes the appearance of the angel Gabriel to Daniel, who was seeking wisdom and understanding from God. In these verses, Gabriel reveals to Daniel that he was sent to explain the vision he had been given. This passage is a powerful reminder of God's commitment to providing us with wisdom and understanding, even when the path ahead may seem unclear.

When we seek God's wisdom, we can trust that He will send guidance to help us discern the way forward, just as He did for Daniel. Gabriel was sent with a specific purpose – to reveal the meaning of Daniel's vision. Likewise, when we seek God's wisdom, He will send the people, resources, and opportunities we need to help us grow in our understanding.

One of the key lessons from this passage is that we must be persistent in our pursuit of God's wisdom. Daniel was no stranger to seeking God's guidance – he was known for his devotion to the Lord and his prayer life. But even still, he didn't receive the answers he sought overnight. Instead, he had to wait for Gabriel's appearance and then listen attentively to the words he was given.

In our own pursuit of wisdom and understanding, we must be patient and persistent. We may not receive answers right away, but if we continue to seek God with a humble heart, He will eventually reveal His truth to us. And just like Gabriel, He may use unexpected means to do so.

## **GOD IS CAPABLE OF RESCUE**

### **(DANIEL 8:18-27)**

As we read through the book of Daniel, we see how the people of God faced numerous challenges and seemingly hopeless situations. However, in every instance, God came to their rescue and delivered them from their afflictions. In Daniel 8:18-27, we see a powerful demonstration of God's ability to rescue, even in the midst of impossible circumstances.

In this passage, Daniel has a vision of a ram and a goat, which represents the empires of Medo-Persia and Greece. The goat, which represents Greece, is described as being so powerful that it seemed to have victory within its grasp. However, in verse 25, we read that "by no human hand" was the goat defeated. This phrase is a clear reminder that God is in control, even when things seem hopeless.

The message in this passage is that God is more than capable of rescuing us from our deepest fears, hardships, and struggles. We might feel like the goat, facing a situation that seems unbeatable, but we must remember that God is always in control. Our victories do not come from our own strength or abilities, but from the power of God working in and through us.

It is important to remember that God's rescue does not always come in the form we expect. Sometimes it might seem like God is silent, but we must trust that He is always working for our good. When we put our faith in God and trust in His power, we can have hope even in the most hopeless situations.

## **THINGS FELL APART QUICKLY**

**(DANIEL 5:1-4)**

In Daniel 5, we read about King Belshazzar who threw a lavish feast for a thousand of his nobles. Suddenly, he got carried away and found himself in deep trouble. This account serves as a reminder that we too can give into depravity and turn away from God.

Just like Belshazzar, we may find ourselves caught up in the cares and pleasures of this world, and forget the importance of living a righteous and holy life centered around being transformed by the Gospel of Jesus. We may become so consumed by our own selfish desires and pursuits that we neglect our relationship with God. But we can choose now to turn back to God. Just as Belshazzar should have humbled himself and sought God's mercy, we too can confess our sins and ask for forgiveness. We can turn away from our wicked ways and choose to live a life pleasing to God.

In order to avoid sinking into lostness and brokenness, we must always be mindful of our actions and thoughts. We must constantly guard our hearts and resist the temptation to ingive ourselves over to deceitful pleasures that will only lead us away from God. Instead, we must strive to live a life filled with love, grace, and obedience to God. Let us not be like Belshazzar and choose to turn away from God. Let us seek Him always and live for Him. May we never forget that true happiness and fulfillment can only be found in God, and may we strive to live in such a way that brings Him glory and honor.

## **THE ANSWER TO LIFE'S PROBLEMS**

### **(DANIEL 5:5-12)**

As Belshazzar the king and his guests drank from the sacred vessels of the Lord, a mysterious hand appeared and wrote on the wall. The king was shaken and called for the wise men to interpret the writing. But none could give a satisfactory answer. Finally, the queen recommended to Belshazzar that God's servant Daniel be summoned to interpret the writing with the wisdom that God gave him.

In the same way as the king's wise men struggled and failed, the world offers many false solutions to today's problems. People turn to wealth, pleasure, power, or fame to fill the emptiness in their hearts, but these things never bring lasting peace or satisfaction. Only the Lord can provide true answers to the problems of life.

King Belshazzar learned this lesson too late. He did not learn from the lesson of humility from Nebuchadnezzar, though he knew of what had happened to him (Dan. 5:22). He sought out the best counselors and the foremost experts of Babylon, and he offered these earthly-minded guides some of the greatest rewards that earthly riches could provide. But they could not do what had been asked of them—it was beyond them!

The Lord is always ready to help us, if we will only turn to Him and ask. He has already given us the answers to our problems in His Word, which is the Bible. We must study it, meditate on it, and apply its teachings to our lives. He will lead us to the answers that the world can not provide to us—answers that bring peace, joy, and fulfillment.

## **DON'T TAKE THINGS FOR GRANTED**

(DANIEL 5:13-30)

In the book of Daniel, we read about King Belshazzar and how he threw a great feast. In the midst of the revelry, a hand appeared and wrote on the wall. The writing was a warning to him that his kingdom was about to be divided and taken away from him. The words "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin" meant that God had measured Belshazzar's reign and found it lacking, that he had been weighed in the balance and found wanting, and that his kingdom would be divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

This story serves as a reminder that we should not take things for granted. King Belshazzar had everything he could ever want, but he did not appreciate it. He took for granted the blessings and the power that he had been given, and he used them for his own selfish purposes. He did not use them to serve God or to help others. And that very night, his reign ended.

In the same way, we should not take for granted the blessings and opportunities that God has given us. We should not use them for our own selfish purposes, but rather we should use them to serve God and to help others. We should not take for granted the love and grace of God, the forgiveness that is offered to us through Jesus, and the hope that we have in Him. We should be grateful for these blessings and share them with others. Let us not be like King Belshazzar and take things for granted. Let us be thankful for all that God has given us, and let us use it to make a difference in the world.

## HOW TO READ THE BIBLE (DANIEL 9:1-2)

As Christians, reading the Bible is one of the most important things we can do to deepen our relationship with God and grow in our faith. But sometimes, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed or unsure of how to approach reading Scripture. In Daniel 9:1-2, we are given a great example of how to read the Bible.

Daniel 9:1-2 says, “In the first year of Darius son of Ahasuerus, who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.”

From this passage, we see that Daniel understood the importance of reading the Scriptures to gain understanding and insight into the will of God. He did not just read the Bible casually, but took the time to study it and seek to understand what God was saying.

In order to read the Bible faithfully, we must approach it with reverence and a desire to know God’s will for our lives. We must set aside distractions and focus on the words of God, allowing his words to penetrate our hearts. We should read the Bible with a prayerful heart, asking God to reveal His truth and give us understanding.

Finally, we must be willing to act on what we have learned. The Bible is not just a collection of words to be read and admired, but a guide to living for God. We must be willing to apply what we have learned, allowing the Scriptures to shape our thoughts, words, and actions.



## **CONFESSING FOR THE COMMUNITY**

### **(DANIEL 9:3-15)**

In Daniel 9:3-15, we see the powerful example of confession in the prayer of Daniel. In this passage, Daniel confesses the sins of his people, even though he was innocent. This act of intercession demonstrates the true spirit of humility and the heart of a servant.

Daniel was in a position of authority and held a great deal of influence, yet he chose to humble himself before God and confess the sins of his people. This act of vicarious confession acknowledges that the sin of one affects the entire community, and that all are accountable for their actions.

As Christians, we are called to follow the example of Daniel and take personal responsibility for the sins of our own communities. This enables us to own the need for change. By taking responsibility for the actions of our communities, we demonstrate the power of humility and intercession.

In addition, confession helps to break the chains of sin that bind our communities. Confessing the sins of our community not only brings healing and restoration, but also allows us to take responsibility for our part in perpetuating sinful patterns.

As we approach God in intercession, let us remember the powerful example of Daniel and take personal ownership of the sins of our communities. May we lay aside our personal pride and seek the healing and restoration that only God can provide. Through confession and personal action, we can be a part of bringing about a change in our world and experience the power of God's love and grace in our own lives.

## **THE GRACE OF JESUS**

### **(DANIEL 9:16-19)**

In this passage, we see the prophet Daniel pleading with God to show mercy and grace to his people, who were in captivity in Babylon. In Daniel 9:16-19, we read how Daniel acknowledges the sins of his people, yet still pleads for God to have mercy and forgive them. This passage highlights the importance of acknowledging our own sins, but also trusting in the grace and mercy of God to restore us.

Just as Daniel pleaded for the restoration of his people, Jesus offers us the same grace and restoration through his death and resurrection. Through Jesus, we can receive forgiveness for our sins and be reconciled with God. The grace of God is not just about forgiveness, but about being transformed and made new. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, it says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

The grace of God in Jesus Christ is not just a one-time event, but a daily experience. Every day we can approach God with confidence, asking for his grace and mercy to be poured out in our lives. We can trust in his promise that he will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). This grace also equips us to live a life of love and service to others, as we have been shown love and grace ourselves. May we always trust in the grace of Jesus and be filled with the peace and hope that only He can give.

## HOW TO PRAY

### (DANIEL 9:20-23)

As a Christian, prayer is a vital part of our spiritual journey. It allows us to communicate with God and receive guidance, comfort, and strength. In Daniel 9:20-23, we see a beautiful example of how to pray.

Daniel was a faithful servant of God who was deeply concerned about the sin and idolatry of his people. He turned to God in prayer, seeking forgiveness and mercy. In his prayer, he acknowledges the sin of his people and confesses his own sin. He asks God to act in mercy, not because of their own merit, but because of His character and compassion.

One of the key lessons we can learn from Daniel's prayer is humility. Daniel recognizes that God is sovereign and just, and he confesses the sins of his people. He recognizes that they don't deserve God's grace, but that they need it. In our prayers, it's important to humble ourselves before God, recognizing that we're in need of His mercy.

Another important lesson is the focus on God's character. Daniel recognizes that God is compassionate and merciful, and he pleads for His mercy. He acknowledges God's greatness and power, and he trusts that God will act in accordance with His character. In our prayers, it's important to focus on who God is and what He has promised.

Finally, Daniel teaches us about persistence in prayer. He doesn't give up, but trusts that God will answer. In the same way, we should persist also, trusting that God will answer in His own time and in accordance with His will.

## **A SPECIFIC PROPHECY OF CHRIST**

### **(DANIEL 9:24-26)**

Daniel 9:24-26 speaks of a specific prophecy of Christ, the coming of the Messiah. The prophecy states that “Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.”

This prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus came to earth to live among us. He lived a sinless life and died on the cross to pay the price for our sins. Through His death, Jesus made reconciliation for iniquity and brought in everlasting righteousness for those who believe in Him. This prophecy also speaks of the sealing up of vision and prophecy, which means that the ultimate fulfillment of God’s plan for salvation was fulfilled in Jesus.

As we read this passage, it is important to remember that Jesus’ death and resurrection were not just random events in history, but were a part of God’s plan from the beginning. God’s plan for salvation was not just for the Jews, but for all people from every nation. Through faith in Jesus, we can have everlasting righteousness and be reconciled to God.

In conclusion, the prophecy of Christ in Daniel 9:24-26 reminds us of the purpose of Jesus’ coming to earth. He came to make an end of our sins and bring everlasting righteousness to those who believe in Him. Let us always be grateful for the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross and live in a way that honors His sacrifice. He is the fulfillment of all of God’s promises and is the source of our salvation.

## **PERSEVERING THROUGH HARDSHIP**

### **(DANIEL 9:26-27)**

In Daniel 9:26-27, we read about the prophecy of the coming of the “desolator” who will cause great distress and suffering to God's people. This passage serves as a reminder that we, as followers of God, may face hardships and difficulties in our lives. However, despite these difficulties, we are called to endure and trust in God's plan.

The desolator can be interpreted as a symbol of the trials and tribulations that we may face in life. Whether it be sickness, financial struggles, or relationship difficulties, these hardships can be overwhelming and cause us to question our faith. However, it is important to remember that God allows these struggles for a purpose. He uses them to strengthen our faith, refine our character, and draw us closer to Him.

In the midst of hardship, it can be easy to become discouraged and lose hope. But it is during these times that we must hold fast to our faith in God. He promises to never leave us nor forsake us, and He is always with us, working all things together for good. We can trust in His sovereignty and know that He is using our hardships to shape us into the person He wants us to be.

So when we face the “desolator” in our lives, let us not be discouraged, but let us trust in God's plan. Let us cling to our faith in Him and allow Him to work in us and through us, even in the midst of hardship. For when we endure, we will be strengthened and refined, and our faith will shine brighter for all to see.

## **DEALING WITH MALICIOUS ACCUSATIONS**

### **(DANIEL 6:1-5)**

Sometimes we encounter situations where people try to accuse us of something we haven't done. It's difficult to handle these accusations, especially if they come from respected and influential people. However, we can learn from the story of Daniel in the book of Daniel 6:1-5 on how to handle such accusations with grace and wisdom.

First and foremost, we must maintain our integrity and stand firm in our beliefs and values. Just like Daniel, who refused to compromise his beliefs even when faced with the threat of death, we must be unwavering in our faith. We must not give in to fear or temptation and instead, trust in the Lord to guide us while we strive to put Him first in our lives.

Secondly, we must not retaliate or seek revenge against our accusers. Instead, we must pray for them and seek to understand their motives and reasons for their accusations. Daniel's response to his accusers was not one of anger or retaliation but of grace and forgiveness. He trusted in the Lord to protect him and justice to be served.

Thirdly, we must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to help us handle difficult situations with grace and wisdom. The Lord has promised to be with us always, and he will give us the strength and courage to endure any trial.

So when we are faced with false or opportunistic accusations, this is how we should respond. Through these actions, we can handle these situations with grace and wisdom, just like Daniel, and allow the Lord to be glorified in our lives.

## **THE POWER OF PERSISTENT PRAYER**

### **(DANIEL 6:6-18)**

Daniel 6:6-18 gives us a beautiful example of persistent prayer and the power of faith. Daniel was a man of great faith and devotion, lived as an example of faithfulness to God. He was appointed as governor of Babylon and was known for wisdom, integrity, and devotion to God. Despite the hostility of his enemies, Daniel never wavered in his commitment. He continued to pray three times a day, regardless of who was watching.

In verses 6-18, we see that Daniel's enemies were jealous and wanted to find a way to get rid of him. They sought to make a law that would prevent anyone from praying to any god except King Darius for thirty days. But Daniel refused to be intimidated. He continued to pray as he always did.

The story of Daniel's persistent prayer reminds us that faith and devotion to God should never be swayed by the opinions or actions of others. We must trust in God's faithfulness and rely on his promises, even when it seems like everything is against us. The devil may try to intimidate us and put obstacles in our path, but our faith in God should remain steadfast.

Daniel's persistent prayer is a powerful reminder to us: When we pray persistently, we demonstrate our faith in God and our trust in his love and care for us. Through persistent prayer, we see God's hand at work in our lives, and we experience the peace and comfort that come from being in close fellowship with him. So let us be encouraged by Daniel's example and persist in our prayer, knowing that God hears us and answers us in his perfect way and time.

## **GOD'S POWER TO SAVE**

### **(DANIEL 6:19-28)**

God's power is unmatched and undeniable. In the story of Daniel in the lions' den, we see just how far God's power can reach. Daniel was a man of faith and obedience, who was thrown into a den of lions as a result of his unwavering devotion to God. Despite the danger, Daniel did not fear for his life because he knew that God was with him.

In Daniel 6:19-28, we see that the king had a change of heart and realized the error of his ways. He realized that Daniel's God was the only true God and he praised and honored Him. The king then ordered that Daniel be taken from the lions' den—and when he went and called to Daniel, he called back to the king unharmed! This story is a powerful reminder of God's power and His ability to protect and save His children.

God's power is not limited by human circumstances, nor is it restricted by time or space. No matter what situation we find ourselves in, God's power is always available to us. We can trust in Him and be confident that He will protect and guide us through any danger or difficulty.

In times of trouble, we may feel like we are facing a den of lions. However, we can have the same confidence that Daniel had and know that God is with us and will protect us. The story of Daniel in the lions' den is a testament to God's power and His faithfulness to His children.

So, let us not fear for our lives or the future. Let us trust in God and know that His power is greater than any obstacle we may face.



## **MAKE TIME FOR MOURNING**

### **(DANIEL 10:1-3)**

In Daniel 10:1-3, we read of a time when the prophet was grappling with depression. It says, "In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a message was revealed to Daniel... The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision. In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three entire weeks."

Just like Daniel, many of us may also experience periods of sadness and depression. However, we can learn from his example on how to deal with these feelings. Firstly, it's important to understand that it's okay to feel sad and to mourn. Just as Daniel mourned for three weeks, we too can allow ourselves time to process and heal from difficult experiences.

Additionally, we see that Daniel had a deep understanding of the message that was revealed to him. In a similar way, seeking understanding and clarity through prayer and reading of scripture can bring comfort and direction during dark times.

Finally, Daniel was also someone who had an understanding of the vision. This means that he had a perspective that extended beyond his current circumstances. Similarly, it's important for us to keep our eyes fixed on the bigger picture, on the hope and promise of a brighter future, even in the midst of depression.

When we're faced with depression, we can learn from Daniel's example and seek comfort through mourning, seeking understanding, and maintaining a perspective on the bigger picture. May the peace of God fill our hearts and give us strength during these difficult times.

## **FIGHTING SPIRITUAL BATTLES**

### **(DANIEL 10:4-15)**

As believers, we are constantly in a spiritual battle. In Daniel 10:4-15, we see a vivid picture of this spiritual warfare, and it serves as a reminder to us of the reality of this struggle.

In the passage, Daniel is in deep mourning and fasting, when he receives a vision of an angelic being who tells him, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them." (Daniel 10:12). This shows us that our prayers and fasting can bring us into the presence of God, in the midst of a spiritual battle.

The angel also tells Daniel that he has been fighting against the prince of Persia, presumably a spiritual figure, and that the battle is so fierce that he had to call upon the archangel Michael for help. This reminds us that the forces of evil are not to be taken lightly, and that we need to rely on the power of God and His angels to fight them.

This is a call to action for us, to not be afraid and to be strong in the Lord. We must stand firm in our faith, relying on the power of God to defeat the enemy.

In conclusion, Daniel 10:4-15 serves as a powerful reminder to us of the spiritual warfare that we are in. It shows us the reality of the forces of evil, and how we can rely on the power of God and His angels to fight them.

## **THE NEED FOR ENCOURAGEMENT**

### **(DANIEL 10:15-21)**

In Daniel 10:15-21, we read about the great encouragement that Daniel received from the angel Gabriel. Daniel had been fasting and praying for 21 days, seeking the Lord for wisdom and understanding. In his time of need, the angel Gabriel appeared to him and spoke words of encouragement.

In verse 19, Gabriel says, “O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.” These words of encouragement remind us that no matter what challenges we face, God is with us. He sees us as highly esteemed, and He wants us to be strong.

As we read further, we see that Gabriel also reminds Daniel that God is the One who will fight for us and give us strength in our battles. In verse 20, he says, “Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come.”

This passage encourages us to remember that we don't have to face our battles alone. God will fight for us and give us the strength we need. He is always with us, and He wants us to be strong in Him. When we face difficult circumstances, we can be encouraged and rest in the knowledge that God is in control and He will give us the strength we need to overcome.

## **LIVING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES**

### **(DANIEL 11:1-4)**

As Christians, we are called to live in faith even in uncertain times. This is a message that is well exemplified in the book of Daniel, where the prophet was given a vision of the future and the events that would take place. In Daniel 11:1-4, we see a prophecy about the rise of great leaders and empires that would have a significant impact on the world.

One of these leaders was Xerxes, the Persian king who led a massive army against the Greeks. Despite his might, the Greeks, led by Leonidas, stood their ground at the Battle of Thermopylae.

After some time another great leader of the Greeks mentioned in this prophecy, Alexander the Great, conquered the Persians and much of the world and established a powerful empire. While Alexander was a formidable leader, his kingdom was divided after his death, proving that even the greatest of empires are not permanent. This serves as a reminder that we should not put our hope in this world or its rulers, but in the everlasting kingdom of God.

In uncertain times, it can be easy to fall into fear and despair. However, as Christians, we have the assurance of God's promises and His faithfulness. We can trust in His sovereignty and know that He is in control, even when the world seems chaotic. By keeping our eyes fixed on Him and living in obedience to His will, we can navigate the uncertainties of life with peace and confidence.

## **STRIVE TO BRING PEACE**

### **(DANIEL 11:5-13)**

Daniel 11:5-13 describes the historical fulfillment of a failed alliance between the King of the South, Egypt, and King of the North, Syria. The verses describe how the King of the South attempted to form an alliance with the King of the North but failed, leading to a violent conflict. This passage highlights the importance of striving for peace, even in difficult situations.

In today's world, it can be easy to fall into the trap of conflict and division, especially in our relationships with others. Whether it is in our personal relationships or in the political arena, it is important to strive for peace and unity. Unfortunately, like in the failed alliance described in verse 6, we may encounter situations where our efforts for peace are not successful. However, this does not mean that we should give up on our pursuit of peace.

It is important to remember that peace is not simply the absence of conflict, but rather it is a positive state of being where we live in harmony with others. In order to maintain peace, we must be proactive in our efforts to build relationships, listen to others, and resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner.

Additionally, we must also seek the guidance and wisdom of God, who is the source of all peace. In John 14:27, Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." When we trust in God and seek his peace, we can overcome the challenges that threaten to divide us.

## **THE TRAP OF GREED**

### **(DANIEL 11:14-20)**

In the book of Daniel, chapter 11, verse 14-20, we see the account of the battles between Antiochus III and the Ptolemies over land. This passage serves as a warning against greed, as both Antiochus and the Ptolemies were consumed with acquiring more territory and wealth.

Antiochus III was a Seleucid king who desired to expand his kingdom, and in his greed, he went to war with the Ptolemies in Egypt. However, his pursuit of wealth and power was ultimately his downfall. He was not content with what he had and continually sought to acquire more. This kind of greed is a dangerous trap that we can fall into as well. We must be careful not to let our desire for material possessions and wealth consume us, for it can lead to destructive consequences.

Greed is a sin that has been present throughout history and continues to be a problem in our world today. It is important for us to recognize that true contentment and satisfaction come from our relationship with God, not from the accumulation of wealth and possessions. We must guard our hearts and minds from the temptations of greed and focus on what truly matters: our relationship with God and serving Him.

Let us learn from the example of Antiochus III and be careful not to fall into the trap of greed. May we find true contentment and satisfaction in our relationship with God and seek to serve Him with all that we have.

## **TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY**

**(DANIEL 11:21-28)**

In Daniel 11:21-28, we see a description of the dangers of seeking our own glory. This historical fulfillment can be seen in Antiochus IV, who was a wicked ruler who sought his own glory at the expense of others. He was known for ruthless behavior towards his enemies and deceitful alliance-making, making false promises to gain power and control over others.

This king of the Seleucid Empire was known for his greed, cruelty, and ambition. Antiochus IV also formed deceitful alliances, promising peace and prosperity while secretly plotting against his allies. This is evident in verse 27, which says, "they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper." Antiochus IV's alliances were never meant to benefit anyone other than himself, and his actions ultimately brought destruction and hardship to those around him.

This passage serves as a warning to us to not fall into the same trap. When we prioritize our own desires and ambitions above all else, we will inevitably cause harm to those around us and bring destruction to ourselves.

We must remember that true glory comes from God alone, and that He is the one who gives us our abilities and opportunities. Instead of seeking our own glory, we must seek to glorify God in all that we do. This means being truthful and faithful in our relationships, and using our gifts and resources for the good of others, rather than just ourselves.

Let us not be like Antiochus IV, seeking our own glory, but let us instead seek to glorify God and serve those around us.

## **STANDING FOR WHAT IS RIGHT**

### **(DANIEL 11:29-35)**

Daniel 11:29-35 describes a time of intense conflict and struggle, with a small nation fighting against a mighty king. This passage ultimately points towards the historical fulfillment of this prophecy in the story of the Maccabees.

The Maccabees were a group of Jews who rose up against the Greek-Syrian kingdom in the 2nd century BC. The Greek king, Antiochus IV, was determined to destroy the Jewish religion and impose Greek culture and religion upon the Jewish people. This meant forbidding Jewish practices such as circumcision, keeping the Sabbath, and offering sacrifices.

Despite the odds, the Maccabees refused to surrender their faith and fought fiercely for what was right. Through their courage and unwavering commitment, they were able to reclaim the Temple and restore the Jewish way of life. This period of time is celebrated every year in the Jewish festival of Hanukkah, which Jesus also observed in John 10:22-30 even though it was not one of the originally prescribed festivals of the Jewish Law.

The story of the Maccabees reminds us that even when we are faced with overwhelming opposition, we must fight for what is right. As they stood up for their way of life, we too must be bold in our beliefs and unyielding in the face of adversity.

So let us be inspired by the story of the Maccabees, and let us stand firm in our faith, fighting for what is right with courage and determination. For in the end, we will see that God will work wonders through those who are faithful and willing to stand up for their beliefs.



## **HOPE IN CHRIST**

### **(DANIEL 11:36-12:4)**

Here, we see a prophecy of the end-times, and the fulfillment of God's plan for humanity. In Daniel 11:36-12:4, we are told of the rise of a powerful ruler who will defile the temple and persecute the people of God. This ruler will cause much distress and suffering for God's people, but despite all the chaos and turmoil, there is a message of hope in Christ.

In Daniel 12:1-2, we read, "There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt."

This passage speaks of the ultimate victory of God's people and the hope we have in the resurrection of the dead and the renewal of all things in Christ. The shroud of end-times fulfillment serves as a reminder that despite the challenges and hardships we may face in this world, our ultimate hope is in the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of his kingdom.

So, as we navigate the uncertainty and turmoil of our time, let us hold fast to the hope that is in Christ. Let us trust in the promise of his return and the ultimate fulfillment of His plan for humanity. Let us seek to live lives that reflect the hope that we have and share the message of salvation with those around us. For, in Christ, we have a hope that transcends this world and endures forever.

## **WAITING FOR GOD**

### **(DANIEL 12:5-8)**

In a world that is constantly on the go, it can be difficult to slow down and wait for things to unfold. We often find ourselves caught up in our own plans, desires and goals, and we become frustrated and anxious when things don't go according to our timeline. But as Christians, we are called to trust in the Lord and be patient in all things.

Daniel 12:5-8 reminds us that there will be a time of waiting, and this waiting is not in vain. The Scripture says, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?... for a time, times, and half a time... I heard this, but I did not understand."

There is a time and a purpose for everything. Even though we may not understand why things are happening, or why they are taking so long, we must trust that God has a plan and that everything will fall into place in due time. It's not for us to know the timeline, but to trust that God will fulfill His promises in His own perfect timing.

So how can we cultivate patience in our own lives? First, we must pray for the Holy Spirit to fill us with his peace. We must also focus on God's character and trust in His goodness. And lastly, we must be thankful, knowing that God is working all things together for our good.

As we wait for God's promises to be fulfilled, let us be patient, trust in the Lord, and remember that there is a time and a purpose for everything.

## **KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON GOD**

### **(DANIEL 12:8-9)**

In the book of Daniel, we see the prophet Daniel being told about a time of great trouble, a time when many will be persecuted and tested. But in the midst of all this, there is a message of hope. In verses 8-9 of chapter 12, we read, "Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, 'My lord, what will be the outcome of these things?' He said, 'Go your way, Daniel, for the words are concealed and sealed up until the end time."

This passage reminds us that there are many things in life that we may not understand or have answers for. We may become overwhelmed and caught up in the details of our struggles and worries. But in these moments, it's important for us to focus on God and trust in His plan for our lives.

When we focus on God, we are reminded that He is in control, and that He has a purpose for everything that happens in our lives. We can trust that He is working everything out for our good and for His glory, even when it may not seem like it. As we seek to understand God's ways and to focus on Him, He gives us His peace and helps us to see that all things are possible through Him.

In the midst of all the chaos and uncertainty in our lives, let us remember to focus on God and not get caught up in the details. Let us trust in His plan and be reminded that He is in control. As we do this, we will find peace, comfort, and hope, even in the darkest of times.

## **FAITHFULNESS IN EXILE**

### **(DANIEL 12:9-13)**

Daniel 12:9-13 tells us about the end of times, and how those who are faithful to God will be rewarded for their unwavering devotion. This passage is a powerful reminder that our ultimate goal as Christians should be to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord and to remain steadfast in our faith even in the face of trials and temptations.

As believers, we are called to live for Jesus every day, no matter what challenges may come our way. We must be willing to sacrifice our own selfish ambitions and sometimes even the approval of other people for the sake of Christ, just as He gave His life for us. This is what it means to be faithful, to walk in obedience to God's commands, to trust in His promises, and to live in the power of His Spirit.

It's easy to become distracted by the things of this world, but we must remain steadfast and focus on the prize that awaits us in heaven. We must hold on to our faith in Jesus, knowing that He is our source of strength, wisdom, and guidance. We must rely on Him to help us overcome temptations, to comfort us in times of trial, and to sustain us through every difficulty.

Living for Jesus faithfully is not always easy, but it is worth it. Our reward will be great, and we will be able to stand with confidence before our Lord and Savior. So let us strive to live for Him every day, in all things, and in all ways, knowing that He is always faithful to us.

## CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE OF DANIEL

Daniel 1

Daniel 2

Daniel 3

Daniel 4

**under the reign of  
Nebuchadnezzar**

Daniel 7

Daniel 8

Daniel 5

**under the reign of Belshazzar**

Daniel 9

Daniel 6

**under the reign  
of Darius**

Daniel 10

Daniel 11

Daniel 12

**under the reign of Cyrus**

