

# Midweek Study

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## STANDING STRONG IN A HOSTILE CULTURE

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

### WHO'S IN CHARGE?

Daniel 1:1-2; 2:28; 4:17; 4:37b

#### Introduction:

Theme: He's Got the Whole World In His Hands

Written: 530 BC

Author: Daniel (605BC – 536BC)

Setting: Babylon

#### Attacks on the Authenticity of the Book of Daniel:

- 1) HISTORY – Critics say Daniel written 164 BC (not 530 BC), and is a forgery. [Ez. 14:14 – “Though these three men Noah, Daniel, and Job;” Ez. 28:3 – “Behold, you are wiser than Daniel.” – Ezekiel is referencing a contemporary by the name of Daniel.]
- 2) LANGUAGE – Critics use Daniel 3:5, which describes musical instruments, the terms written in Greek (unknown at the time).
- 3) MIRACLES – 3 Hebrew children in Fiery Furnace / Daniel in Lion's Den
- 4) PROPHECY – How could Daniel know all of those prophecies? [Daniel 9:24-26 is an example of Prophecy fulfilled]

#### 8 Proofs that Daniel is a Historical Character and He Wrote the Book of Daniel:

- 1) Ez. 28:3; 14:14 – Ezekiel, who wrote about 600BC, mentions Daniel as a true historical character.
- 2) Hebrew Bible (OT), Daniel is in the Hebrew Bible, and the Jews were very careful. No prophecy was written after 400BC, yet Daniel is written before this. They rejected 1 and 2 Maccabees (14 books in all),
- 3) Septuagint (dates 275-300BC) – Daniel is in there. How can scholars say Daniel was written 135 BC
- 4) Dead Sea Scrolls (sections of Daniel in them) date several hundred years BC.  
*“[T]he book of Daniel was accepted as canonical by the community of Qumran (who produced the Dead Sea Scrolls). This is telling because this group emerged as a separate party in Judaism between 171 and 167 b.c., before the proposed late date.”<sup>a</sup>*
- 5) Jesus Himself - Matthew 24:15 – Jesus does not speak of Daniel the deceiver or forger, but “the prophet”.
- 6) Other New Testament allusions to Daniel – 2 Timothy 4:17, 2 Thess. 2:3, Heb. 11:33-34
- 7) Fulfilled Prophecies – Half of Daniel has been fulfilled. 8-12<sup>th</sup> chapters.
- 8) It fits like a glove in the Book of Revelation.

<sup>a</sup> Crossway Bibles, *The ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 1581–1582.

**God's Sovereignty:** God is smart enough and strong enough to use all things to ultimately fulfill His purposes and His will.

## How Does God's Sovereignty Interact With...

### 1) SOCIETY

God's Sovereignty - Daniel 4:17; Proverbs 21:1; Job 12:23; Psalm 22:28

Our responsibility - 1 Timothy 2:1-2

*Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty – as well as the privilege and interest – of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.  
– John Jay (1745-1829), Original Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court*

### 2) SATAN

God's Sovereignty - Job 1:8–12

Our responsibility - James 4:7

### 3) SIN

See Jeremiah 32:35; Jeremiah 19:5; Jeremiah 7:31

***Hershel Hobbs: "God does not predestine that which He prohibits in Scripture."***

### 4) SUFFERING

See Romans 8:28

### 5) SALVATION

God's Sovereignty - Ephesians 1:5, 6, 11

Our responsibility - 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 23:37; 1 Timothy 2:3–4

***God predestined a PLAN of salvation (CHRIST), not an individual PERSON to be saved.***

### 6) SELF

See Proverbs 20:24 and Proverbs 16:9