

Daniel's Final Visions (chapters 7-12)

❖ Daniel naturally divides itself into two parts.

- Personal history of Daniel & his Hebrew companions. (1:1 - 6:28)
- Visions and prophecies of Daniel. (7:1 - 12:13)

❖ The 2nd half of the book contains 4 visions seen by Daniel.

- The vision of the four beasts. (7:1-28)
- The vision of the ram and the goat. (8:1-27)
- The vision of the seventy weeks. (9:1-27)
- The vision of the time of the end. (10:1 - 12:13)

❖ God reveals many things in these visions about His purpose and plan in history, specifically about the nation of Israel and the everlasting kingdom to come.



Daniel - "Greatly Loved"

“At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, **for you are greatly loved**. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.” **(9:23)**

“And he said to me, ‘**O Daniel, man greatly loved**, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.’ And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.” **(10:11)**

“And he said, ‘**O man greatly loved**, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.’ And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, ‘Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.’” **(10:19)**

Why Was Daniel "Greatly Loved"?

An Overview of Daniel's Decisions



God Is No Respector of Persons!

³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that **God shows no partiality,** ³⁵ but in every nation **anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.**”

(Acts 10)

▲ Race

▲ Gender

▲ Age

▲ Income

▲ Intelligence

▲ Birthplace

▲ Pedigree

▲ Nobility

**See also: Galatians 3:28; 2 Corinthians 8:12;
1 Timothy 2:4**

We are defined by the *choices* we make, and not by anything else!



Daniel - "Greatly Loved"

Because He "Resolved" Not To Defile Himself

⁵ The king assigned for them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king ... ⁸ But **Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself** with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank ... ¹¹ Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹² "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink." (1:5-12)

cf. Romans 13:11-14



Daniel - "Greatly Loved"

Because He Chose Good Friends

16 **Shadrach, Meshach,** and **Abednego** answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. **17** If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. **18** But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods, or worship the golden image that you have set up." (3:16-18)

Hananiah, Azariah & Mishael

cf. 1 Corinthians 15:33; 2 Corinthians 6:14



Daniel - "Greatly Loved"

Because He Was Bold in Proclaiming Truth

“Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you; break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.” (4:27)

²⁰ But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him ... ²² And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, ²³ and you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven ... but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.
(5:20-23)

cf. 1 Peter 3:15



Daniel - "Greatly Loved"

Because He Was Committed to Prayer

“When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, **as he had done previously.**” (6:10)

“Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast him into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, ‘May your God, **whom you serve continually,** deliver you.’” (6:16)

cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:17



Daniel - "Greatly Loved"

Because He Prayed For Mercy

18 O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by Your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. **19** O Lord, hear; **O Lord, forgive**. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.” **20** While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the LORD my God for the holy hill of my God ... **22** “... O Daniel ... **23** At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, **for you are greatly loved**. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.” (9:18-23)

cf. 1 Timothy 2:1-4



Daniel - "Greatly Loved"

Because He Was Distraught by Evil

“O Lord, the great and awesome God ... we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules ... We have not listened to your servants the prophets ... to us belongs open shame ... because of the treachery that they have committed against you ... All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice ... As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us; yet we have not entreated the favor of the LORD our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth.” **(9:2-19)**

cf. Deuteronomy 27:9-26; 28:15 - 30:10

Curses on Israel for Disobedience!



Daniel - "Greatly Loved"

Because He Was A Humble Truth-Seeker

11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. **12** Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, **for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God,** your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words." (10:11-12)

cf. 1 Peter 5:5-7; James 1:5



Comparing Our Decisions With Daniel's:

- Resolved not to be defiled?
- Choose good friends?
- Bold in proclaiming truth?
- Committed to prayer
- Pray for mercy?
- Distraught by evil?
- Humble truth-seeker?

