

DANIEL

INTIMACY AND COURAGE

A helpful overview of the book from The Bible Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cSC9uobtPM>

KEEP THIS IN MIND

- Jer 25:11-12 This entire land will become a desolate wasteland. Israel and her neighbouring lands will serve the king of Babylon for seventy years. “Then, after the seventy years of captivity are over, I will punish the king of Babylon and his people for their sins,” says the LORD. “I will make the country of the Babylonians a wasteland forever.”

DANIEL IN CONTEXT

- Daniel born 617 BC?
- Taken to Babylon 605 BC
- 605–562 BC – Nebuchadnezzar - King of Babylon
- (around) 553-539 BC Belshazzar – Grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, Co-Regent of Babylon with his father Nabonidus
- (around) 539 – 530 BC Darius – Governor of Babylon under Cyrus
- 559 – 530 BC Cyrus – King of Persia
- Daniel died sometime after 538 BC (He was around 80)

DANIEL LEARNS INTIMACY AND COURAGE

1. Masterchef? No thanks! – Dan 1
2. Four kingdoms and a funeral – Dan 2
(The capacity to do this was only after standing in the first test – Daniel still a young man))
3. The madness of King Neb - perhaps 30-40 years later – Dan 4
Between 3 & 4 Daniel has two visions from God about the future
4. The writing's on the wall (A Spectre of things to come) – Dan 5
Daniel probably has the rest of his visions from God either side of the lion's den
5. Lion King - around 60 years after Daniel left Jerusalem – Dan 6

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH DANIEL?

- God refines and transforms Daniel's character over decades
- Daniel is trusted to carry God's message to kings and rulers but this is not God's final purpose
- Daniel becomes the person who is available and trusted to intercede for God's people to return and be restored to Jerusalem
- Daniel's life spans the period of exile as the first returning Jews went back in 538 BC

WHAT DOES DANIEL PRAY FOR?

- Daniel 9:20 'I went on praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people, pleading with the LORD my God for **Jerusalem**, his holy mountain'
- Jerusalem is the place of worship, sacrifice, forgiveness and the fulfilment of God's **promise**
- It is the place of **intimacy** but to live in it took **courage**

WHAT DOES DANIEL TEACH US?

- We see the same in Jesus as His heart is tested and strengthened so that He could fulfil the calling of the Father on His life. At His strongest and weakest points His prayer was 'Father' (John 11:41-2, Luke 23:34,46)
- The same is true for us. The Father is refining our lives and strengthening our characters so that we can fulfil His calling on us (James 1:2-4, 1 Pet 1:7 and many more)
- To do this we need both **intimacy** and **courage**

INTIMACY AND COURAGE

- Intimacy in knowing Jesus - courage in following Him
- Intimacy reveals your identity – courage reveals your calling
- Intimacy without courage is just sentimentality – courage without intimacy is just bravado
- Intimacy means time, tears and tenderness - courage means trust, toughness and tenacity