
QT Questions—for Daniel

(Here's a short introduction to the book of Daniel from my Study Bibles.)

- The book of Daniel is set during the Babylonian exile (Dan 1:1-3). When King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated the Egyptians at the battle of Carchemish (605 BC), Judah came under his authority. He then entered Jerusalem and took many prominent citizens to Babylon, including Daniel and three of his friends. Several years later, Nebuchadnezzar again deported people from Judah to Babylon (597 BC; see 2Kgs 24:11-16). These captives included the prophet Ezekiel. A decade after that, a final rebellion by King Zedekiah brought the full weight of Nebuchadnezzar's wrath against Judah. Jerusalem and its temple were destroyed, and the remaining population was taken to Babylon (586 BC; see 2Kgs 24:18-25:21). Daniel spent his entire adult life in Babylon—even after the Babylonians were conquered by the Persians in 539 BC (Dan 1:21; 10:1).
- Living in a culture hostile to God, Daniel shows that courageous faith in God—along with personal integrity and persistent prayer—is the way to live. The stories of Daniel 1-6 demonstrate how the people of God can live righteously, even in a culture that opposes their faith. Daniel and his three friends ask God to deliver them from life-threatening danger and impossible dilemmas, and he is faithful to answer.
- The vision of Daniel 7-12 provide hope by teaching that God is ultimately in charge of everything. They step back from the confusion of contemporary events to focus on God's greater plan. Daniel's visions show the need to persist in faith through the messiness of everyday circumstances. Daniel also proclaims resurrection, indicating that some people who have died will wake up to eternal life; others will face everlasting contempt (12:2).
- Overall, Daniel teaches us to persevere. It teaches us to refuse to let the world's stories distract us from the story that God is telling. We are to resist the empire that wants us to think that actions like praying and showing integrity are insignificant when in reality these actions provide opportunities for God's power to break through.

Dan 1 (3/20/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What are the names of the four young men God set apart; how did they set themselves apart for God's service; how can you apply their commitments in your life; what more do you learn here?
 - In v. 2, we see our God working sovereignly in a mysterious way, "And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god." Seeing with our naked eyes, it was God's people and from God's temple, treasures were looted and taken to do no good. Yet, God says, it is He who delivered these things to the pagan king and to his idol. God hates idolatry, and so, to give treasures for more idolatry would be something God would normally hate. Yet, God says, it is He who delivered them. Of course, God is not trying to add more treasures for these pagans to do more idolatry. But, God puts up with what He hates, in order to discipline His people, so that they will see the ugly bitterness of sin, and bless them to turn from their sin, back to their only God and His holy ways. The love of our God for His people drives Him to do what He hates, but for the sake of His people. For His love for us, He would even do the most humiliating thing and become like a sinner, and suffer the consequences of our sins though He was sinless. Thank You, Lord!

Dan 2 (3/21/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar demand from his wise men and what happened; what did the dream mean and how was Daniel able to interpret it; what more do you see in this chapter; what do you learn?
 - In vv. 17-18, Daniel and his friends prayed to God, to reveal to them what no one else knew, that is, to know what the King's dream was and its interpretation. As extreme the King's demand was, he thought, if he told the wise men his dream, then they could interpret with many good sounding explanations. But, he would have no way of knowing if any of them would be true. And if there were more than one explanation, then there would be no way to discern which was right. So, to filter out every plausible sounding interpretation, he had a brilliantly insane idea, that the only way to know the interpretation to be true, is to know what the dream was, without the King revealing what he dreamt. To know the dream meant he would also know the right interpretation of the dream. And while all the other wise men said that this was impossible to do, one man, actually four men, with God's blessing, did the impossible. They knew what others couldn't, because as they prayed to their God to reveal to them what they didn't know, God blesses them with the knowledge that was missing in others. And because of God's blessing over them, through them, all the wise men were spared from their death.

Dan 3 (3/22/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar do and why; who defied the King's command and why (vv. 17-18); how did this end and why; what do you learn?
 - Having heard Daniel's amazing interpretation of his dream, King Nebuchadnezzar must have felt elated. Delighting in how God exalted him, he needed to let everyone know. It was he who said in 2:47, "The king said to Daniel, 'Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of Kings,'" meaning there was no one higher. Yet, did you know, when we want to exalt ourselves a little too high, we end up decreasing others, including God? So, by now, thinking too highly of himself, he rebukes our three friends, "Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?" (v. 15). So, in his mind, he has become even more powerful than any gods, because no god would be able to save these men from what he commanded. Though none of us would go to this king's length and yet, many of us do dabble with his attitude. Because we want to exalt ourselves, willingly or unwillingly, we will place ourselves above God and desire what we want because we are the only king in our lives. In many of our lives, God is present only when we want Him or need Him. Sadly, He is not the only King over our lives. We reign because it's my life; so we think. I pray that we will know, we are not the king of our lives, for we truly have a King, who reigns sovereignly over all areas, over all the days of our lives (Judg 21:25).

Dan 4 (3/24/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What dream does God give to King Nebuchadnezzar this time and what does Daniel plead with him to do; how was the King humbled and restored; what do you learn?
- In vv. 28-30, we hear the King proudly boasting of his greatness. But, we are also certain that when the King heard Daniel interpret his dream, he would have believed to be true. Yet, despite God's stern warning, this earthly king enjoyed his success too much. And drunk with his self infatuation, he disregards or most likely probably forgot God's truth. That happens so often to us as well. God's truth can be so easily be forgotten because of what we see in our world, especially when we are drinking the sweetness of life's success. Instead of remembering that it is God who gives us the ability for the success, we often mistaken to believe that "I did it." And when the I is large, then everything else appears smaller, and sadly that also includes God. No wonder John wanted to remind himself and to teach all of us, "He must become greater, and I must become less" (Jn 3:30). May our successes or accomplishments or goodness never, ever blind us from God's greater greatness, so that we will truly seek His greatness over ours.

Dan 5 (3/25/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What was so wrong about what King Belshazzar was doing and why; what was God's message to him and why; how is this applicable in your life?
- In vv. 10-12, it reads, "The queen... 'O king, live forever! ... There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father —your father the king—made him chief of the magicians,... because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Not let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation." This queen is probably the queen mother, meaning the mother of king Belshazzar. While the younger generation did not know how to solve this problem, the older queen remembered what Daniel did in the past. To remember what God has done in the past, brings deliverance to the present troubles. May we truly learn, the problem of our present troubles is not the presence of our big troubles, but it is the absence or the forgetfulness of who and what our God can do, is our greatest problem. When we see our God, when we remember our God, when we know who and what our God can do, then we can take heart, because we are sure, He has overcome the world (Jn 16:33).

Dan 6 (3/26/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. Why did the leaders under Darius want to get rid of Daniel and how is this applicable to you; regardless of the new law, what did Daniel continue doing and what happened to him and why; what do you learn?
- In vv. 21-22, we read, "Daniel answered, 'May the king live forever! My God sent His angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in His sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.'" What a beautiful testimony, to live in such a way that he was found innocent in the sight of God's holiness. So,

with Daniel, God would allow the lions to come near, but He would not permit them to harm His servant. What our God does not permit, no one, no humans or animals, can do more than what our God permits. He is sovereign, and all things will always end under His complete control. But, lest we think that if we are innocent, that nothing harmful should ever befall us, let's remember what happened to our sinless Lord. As completely guiltless and blameless He was, but Jesus suffered under the weight of the greatest evil and sin, as He endured the wages of sin. Let's remember, He was guiltless like Daniel, but unlike Daniel, Jesus was crushed by the weight of evil. And whenever we may be crushed by evil, though we may be guiltless, this is a time to look to Christ and not to Daniel. But, of course, many of us suffer the pain of sin because we are guilty, and when that's the case, let's again look to Christ, for He was the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and in Him, there's payment for our sins (1Jn 2:1-2). And whenever we sin, let's hear God's word and repent for our sins, and though we know repentance does not bring our forgiveness, yet, by repenting we taste God's forgiveness, for we see the atoning sacrifice Jesus did to pay for all of our sins (1Jn 1:9). We can genuinely repent because we believe in Jesus, for we have already received our forgiveness through His sacrifice on the cross for us.

Dan 7 (3/27/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What was Daniel's dream about; what would be the final conclusion; what do you learn?
 - In vv. 15-18, I love how simply all of these events were summarized, "But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever." As frightening and terrifying all the events would be, yet, in the end, God's will for His people will be done. Paul taught the believers in the church of Ephesus, "In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will" (Eph 1:11). Everything in our world and in our lives will ultimately work out for our good, Paul also taught in Romans 8:28. So, as Daniel learned, it may presently look terrifying, yet, God's good will will be done, no exception. We can be assured and certain of God's good will be done in God's people because our good God promised in His word that whenever He begins His good work in His people, He will always be sure to complete everything perfectly, no exception (Phil 1:6; Rom 8:30). God's promise may sound simplistic, but we can be assured that He is simply true in all of His promises, no exception.

Dan 8 (3/28/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. (If you have a study Bible, they will be able to help you understand the vision of this chapter better.) What do you remember about King Belshazzar's reign; who is Gabriel and why is he able to tell the meaning of the vision; what about the vision do you understand; what do you learn?
 - V. 12 sounds a bit strange, doesn't it? "Because of rebellion, the Lord's people and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground." We are told there's rebellion, and the sacrifices to the Lord are given to it, yet it prospered in everything; moreover, truth was thrown to the ground. How can it prospered in

everything when there's rebellion and the truth is thrown to the ground? Everything should not prosper when there's rebellion and the truth is trampled, but it did. Yet, we are told that there's a time when everything might look good, when everything is actually wrong. How confusing that time will be. Of course, everything that seems to prosper, in the end, it really won't, because it is against God's truth. But, presently, it will appear so. And since in the present, we don't know the future, it's easy to conclude that everything goes well for the wicked. But, in God's truth, God's truth will prevail, and wickedness and rebellion will be thrown down because it stands against God's truth. May we learn to accept God's truth over what we see.

Dan 9 (3/29/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. Why does Daniel say that God's people are covered with shame and what needs to happen; what was Daniel doing before the vision came and can you summarize what the vision was about (visions are not easy to understand, so it's ok to understand a little at a time); what do you learn?
 - In v. 13, Daniel's explains to us the way to seek the favor of God is, "by turning from our sins and giving attention to Your truth." What I have seen in my life and others around me is, that we seek God's favor simply through our prayers and desires, rarely impacting our ways, neither turning from our sins and heeding God's word. So, we want God's favor with our words, but our actions do not show it. As we know, faith without deeds is dead; that is, words without actions are meaningless. If we are going to do the talk, we must do the walk. May we understand what our talk is about, and may we truly learn to walk our talk. And as we can easily see, when we turn from our sins and heed God's truth into our lives, we can see that God's favor is already working within us. God's presence in us and God's way in us goes hand in hand. When He is present in our lives, we live His ways, or said it reversely, when His ways are in us, then we know, He is present with us.

Dan 10 (3/31/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. Do you remember who Cyrus king of Persia was (2Chron 36; Ezra 1); can you explain what this chapter is about; what do you learn?
 - In vv. 10-11, we read, "A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said, 'Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up for I have now been sent to you.' And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling." Daniel was so afraid, all he could do was to tremble on his hands and knees. And yet, when told to stand up, despite his fears, despite how weak and helpless he must have felt, yet, because he was commanded to stand, he stood, yet trembling, but he stood. Not his fears, not his feeling, not his inability, but the command from God ruled his life, and so he stood, still trembling. For many of us, we would insist we cannot do what we are commanded from our God because we know ourselves well; we know our limitations. And here, we must learn, our lives must not be ruled by our limitations, but God's word and our obedience to His words. Though fearful, still trembling, yet, to be able to stand because we are commanded to stand, is a beautiful picture of obedience from Daniel we should pray that we would also learn.

Dan 11 (4/1/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. (Please feel free to read some commentaries for help to understand this chapter.) Is there anything about these kings and their wars that you understand and if so, what do you learn; what do you learn about the two kings as they sit at the same table (v. 27); what do you learn from this chapter?
 - In v. 32, we are told, “With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.” Flattery is an effective tool to get people on your side. I mean, who doesn’t like compliments? And under flattery, there will be lots of compliments, even those that do not belong to us. And, as we crave recognition and appreciation, flattery usually fills the void. But, we are also told, “the people who know their God will firmly resist him.” And I am thinking, the him to resist is the person who is showering us with many flatteries, making us feel good about ourselves, even more than we should. Though we would naturally delight to drink from that juice, yet, we are taught, people who know their God can and will firmly resist him, who uses flattery to get us doing what he wants. Why? Because God blesses us to see ourselves in His light, and we will see, all good things are from Him; therefore, it is not we who should be exalted but our God (Jam 1:17). And the more we learn God’s truth, the more we will learn that even our best talents and abilities are a gift from our God, which means, it is God who deserves the credit and not us (Deut 8:18). Let’s pray that our delight will be to be known by our God, rather than to be exalted by the people around us with flatteries, compliments, recognitions and appreciations. They are nice, but may we appreciate more God becoming greater and us becoming less.

Dan 12 (4/2/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What are the two everlasting places and who will go there and why; in v. 10, what are the lifestyles of the two types of people; what do you learn?
 - In vv. 8-9, Daniel says that he heard but did not understand. So, he asked what will be the outcome, but the reply he received was, to go his way without an answer to his question. I realize that in some things, we won’t receive the answer we are seeking, but we are still told to “Go your way.” Some truths and knowledge of our God are not meant to be revealed until we reach our glory. And so, until then, we are meant to continue to keep going to the end, faithfully trusting that our God knows what’s best. Of course, when we enter into His glory, then all things will be clear and all mysteries revealed and all questions answered, for our knowledge and wisdom should reflect God’s glory. But until His glory, we are meant to be faithfully and joyfully obedient, because we trust our God to know what He is doing, and where He is leading. When we believe our God to know what’s best and we believe that He always leads us to what’s best for us, then, despite the unclarity and uncertainty, we can still obey our God joyfully, because we fully trust that His ways are always what’s best for us, and most of all, He would always do all things for His glory. Whether we eat or drink or walk or make any decisions, may we always do all things for God’s glory alone (1Cor 10:31).