

Part I — “The Personally Faithful God Most High” — 29 May 2022

Introduction: *The Transcendence & Immanence of God*

“Divine transcendence and immanence are the related Christian doctrines that while God is exalted in his royal dignity and exercises both control and authority in his creation (transcendence), he is, by virtue of this control and authority, very present to his creation, especially his people, in a personal and intimate way (immanence).” — John Frame

- From the beginning of Scripture, God is portrayed as both transcendent & immanent (Gen. 1:1; 3:8). This is shown in His power to both judge the nations (11:5-9) and to call out from them a people for Himself (12:1-3) through whom He would bring blessing to all others.

Main Point: The book of Daniel shows us that while the Most High God is _____ over world events, He is also faithful to His people and His involvement in our lives is deeply _____.

An Introduction to the Book of Daniel

Authorship & Date

- Although the book does not specifically name the author, the second half is attributed to Daniel (7:2; 8:1; 10:2) the account of whose life spans a period from roughly 605-538 BC. The accuracy of the book in its claims about ANE history has led modern unbelieving scholars to question the authorship of the book and argue that it was written around 165 BC to encourage the Jews who had suffered persecution.

Arguments for the Authenticity of Daniel

- (1) The interrelatedness between the 1st and 2nd halves of the book means they must have had the same author.
- (2) The author shows a remarkable knowledge of Babylonian and Persian history and government.
- (3) Manuscript fragments of Daniel were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls which date to the late 2nd/early 1st century.
- (4) Jesus quoted from Daniel and attributed the authorship of the book to him.

Matt. 24:15— “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place...”

- Daniel is placed in the “Writings” rather than among the “Prophets” in the Hebrew Bible. Although much of the book is prophetic in nature, this is likely because the man himself was a government official who is referred to as a ‘seer’ or ‘wiseman’ rather than as a ‘prophet.’ The man Daniel certainly functioned as a prophet as was affirmed by the Lord Jesus (Matt. 24:15) and his righteous character (Ezek. 14:14,20) and wisdom (Ezek. 28:3) are extolled in other portions of Scripture.

Key Point: The available evidence suggest that the book was written by _____ during the _____ century BC.

Literary Features

1. _____
⇒ 1:1-6:28 is comprised primarily of narratives that focus on Daniel and his three friends which serve to emphasize that God is personally present with His people.
2. **Apocalyptic** _____
⇒ 7:1-12:13 is comprised primarily of prophetic visions of future events and ultimately “the time of the end.” These visions emphasize God’s sovereign power and control over the events of history.
3. **Multiple** _____
⇒ Like the book of Ezra, Daniel is written in two languages (Hebrew & Aramaic). The book begins and ends in Hebrew (1:1-2:4a; 8:1-12:13) which surround an Aramaic section (2:4b-7:28).
“One possible explanation for the use of the two languages is that Aramaic is used when the book focuses on Gentile powers, and Hebrew is used when the book focuses on God’s covenant people (Israel) and their future.” —J. Paul Tanner
4. **The** _____ **of Ch. 7**
⇒ At the transitions between the narrative and vision portions and the Hebrew and Aramaic portions is the vision of world kingdoms and the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man Figure to whom is given the dominion and an eternal kingdom (7:13-14). This vision shows that God will ultimately accomplish His sovereign purposes for Israel and the nations through the Son of Man.

Key Point: In our study of Daniel, we are going to integrate the visions into the narrative in chronological _____.

Chronological Daniel: 1-2-3-4-7-8-5-9-6-10-11-12

The Message of the Book of Daniel

1. **The Most High God** _____ . “...to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men...”

This name of God uses spatial imagery (height) to emphasize God’s place of sovereign power and position as the sole object of true worship. He is the one who possesses heaven and earth (Gen. 14:22) and is the Redeemer of His people (Psa. 78:35).

God is sovereign over the _____ .

⇒ He _____ His people.

Dan. 2:23—To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you...

⇒ He _____ His people.

Dan. 3:27—And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them.

God is sovereign over the _____ .

⇒ He _____ and _____ the events of world history.

Dan. 8:19-21—¹⁹ He said, “Behold, I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end.”²⁰ As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia.²¹ And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king...

⇒ He will send His _____ .

* To _____ His peoples’ enemies.

Dan. 7:26-27—²⁶ But the court shall sit in judgment, and his (Antichrist’s) dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end.²⁷ And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his (Messiah’s) kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom,

* To bring His _____ .

Dan. 2:44a—And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people.

2. **God’s people can trust that He is with them as they seek to remain** _____ **in the midst of trials.**

They can obey His _____ .

Dan. 1:8a—But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself..

They can seek Him in _____ .

Dan. 6:10—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.

They can trust in His _____ **for them.**

Dan. 3:16-18—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, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

They can serve as His _____ .

Dan. 4:27—“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.”

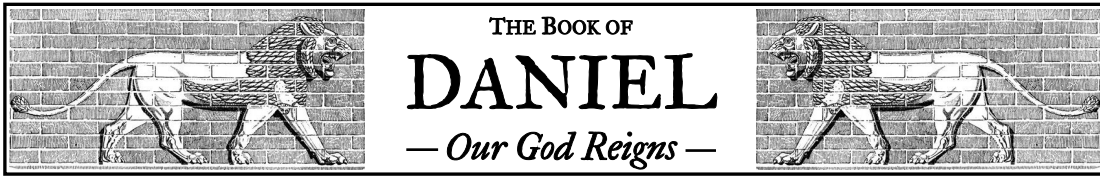
Key Point: The message of Daniel serves as an _____ to God’s people at all times, reminding us of both His power and His presence.

“The purpose of the book...could be stated this way: “To demonstrate that God is sovereignly in control of the nations under whom Israel is being disciplined until the time comes when He will bring Messiah’s kingdom, and that Israel will ultimately be restored and blessed...after she has first undergone tribulation and sufferings imposed by the antichrist.”

—J. Paul Tanner, *Daniel*

Concluding Thought: The Most High God is Our _____ !

Luke 1:30-32—³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”



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Main Point: The book of Daniel shows us that while the Most High God is sovereign over world events, He is also faithful to His people and His involvement in our lives is deeply personal.

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Key Point: The available evidence suggest that the book was written by Daniel during the 6th century BC.

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“One possible explanation for the use of the two languages is that Aramaic is used when the book focuses on Gentile powers, and Hebrew is used when the book focuses on God’s covenant people (Israel) and their future.” —J. Paul Tanner

4. The Centrality of Ch. 7

⇒ At the transitions between the narrative and vision portions and the Hebrew and Aramaic portions is the vision of world kingdoms and the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man Figure to whom is given the dominion and an eternal kingdom (7:13-14). This vision shows that God will ultimately accomplish His sovereign purposes for Israel and the nations through the Son of Man.

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This name of God uses spatial imagery (height) to emphasize God’s place of sovereign power and position as the sole object of true worship. He is the one who possesses heaven and earth (Gen. 14:22) and is the Redeemer of His people (Psa. 78:35).

God is sovereign over the Present.

⇒ He **hears** His people.

Dan. 2:23—To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you...

⇒ He **protects** His people.

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God is sovereign over the Future.

⇒ He **knows** and **directs** the events of world history.

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* To **defeat** His peoples’ enemies.

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