

sermon notes

April 22, 2026 | Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | **Every Knee Shall Bow**
“Introduction to Daniel—Every Knee Shall Bow” | **Daniel 1:1**

Four Historical Facts about the Book of Daniel:

- 1) Takes place during the _____ captivity (Dan 1:1; 2 Kgs 24:12–16)
- 2) Jeremiah prophesied _____ years of judgment (Jer 25:1–11)
- 3) Isaiah prophesied King _____ offspring would serve in Babylon (Isa 39:5–7; 2 Kgs 20:16–18)
- 4) Daniel was taken to Babylon as a youngster in _____ and served under both the Babylonian and Medo-Persian empires

Four False Claims about the Book of Daniel:

- 1) It was written centuries after the life of _____
- 2) The prophecies in Daniel are _____
- 3) The narratives are ahistorical _____
- 4) Daniel was not a _____ person

Four Additional Details about the Book of Daniel:

- 1) Traditionally and historically ascribed to the prophet _____
- 2) Written in both _____ and _____
- 3) Divided into _____ distinct but interconnected sections
- 4) Emphasizes God’s sovereign _____ over every human kingdom

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Walk through the details of the book of Daniel given above. When was Daniel written? What’s the historical background of the book? Who are the main characters? Watch the Bible Project video on Daniel to help you gain a broad overview of this writing: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/daniel/>

Daniel and his friends were taken into exile at a young age (see Dan 1:1–4). Why were they taken? What purpose did it serve? Put yourself in their shoes. How do you think you would have felt hundreds of miles from home stuck in captivity? How would you have responded to the intimidating authority of Nebuchadnezzar and others?

Interact with the title of this series through Daniel—“Every Knew Shall Bow.” How do we know, as Christians, that every knee will ultimately bow to the true God of the universe? How is God’s sovereign kingship over every human kingdom emphasized throughout the book of Daniel?

GET PERSONAL

Daniel was taken to Babylon as a young man and had to live a radically countercultural life in a pagan empire. Would you describe your Christian life as courageously countercultural? Should it be? Why or why not? Do you think our modern-day society is more similar to Israel in the days of Moses and Joshua, or to Babylon during Daniel’s time? What significance does this have for how we live daily?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Read the entire book of Daniel in one sitting. Do not divide your reading into segments. Read it from start to finish without taking a break (this will take approximately one hour). After your reading, write down your observations. What are the major sections of the book? What verses or statements surprised you? What is the tone of this book? What major themes or ideas emerged during your reading?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Many Bible scholars argue that the book of Daniel was written centuries after the fall of Babylon. Some also claim that Daniel was not a real historical figure and that the “prophecies” are actually historical accounts written after the fact (*ex eventu*). Why is it important to evaluate and respond to these claims? What evidence can be presented to support the view that Daniel was written during the lifetime of Daniel and by Daniel himself?