

8 STUDIES  
+ LEADER NOTES

DANIEL

# Seeing Things God's Way



PATHWAY  
BIBLE GUIDES



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DANIEL

BY BRYSON SMITH



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SYDNEY • YOUNGSTOWN

*Seeing Things God's Way*

Pathway Bible Guides: Daniel

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Email: [info@matthiasmedia.com.au](mailto:info@matthiasmedia.com.au)

Internet: [www.matthiasmedia.com.au](http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au)

Please visit our website for current postal and telephone contact information.

Matthias Media (USA)

Email: [sales@matthiasmedia.com](mailto:sales@matthiasmedia.com)

Internet: [www.matthiasmedia.com](http://www.matthiasmedia.com)

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# Before you begin

*Sometimes* things are not what they seem. *Sometimes* things that seem important turn out to be unimportant. *Sometimes* things that seem permanent turn out to be temporary. *Sometimes* things that seem valuable turn out to be worthless.

That's why Daniel is such an important book. It powerfully reminds us to always see things God's way. At the heart of the story is a young man named Daniel, far from home, forced to study the learning and wisdom of the empire that had gutted his own, destroying the temple of his God and killing many of his countrymen.

Behind this story lies a greater reality. The powerful kingdom of the Babylonians will not last, and even the powerful kingdom that replaces it will be torn down to be replaced by more temporary dynasties. One king, however, rules over all. The Lord of Israel uses the story of Daniel to point towards an eternal kingdom that reveals the power of his Son Jesus.

Any Christian who picks up the book of Daniel will find much to sympathize with. Political power and social pressure will push us around, and challenge our faith, in ways that we don't expect. Where are we going to find encouragement? In Daniel's God—the same God that rules over the kings of the ancient world is the God who rules today through the king he's appointed—Jesus Christ.

To get the most out of this Pathway Guide to Daniel, please read the whole of Daniel at least once before you get started on the studies, and ask God to give you his wisdom to live the message that's in the book.



# 1. Courage

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## DANIEL 1



### Getting started

If the Christian life is hard, what comfort does Jesus give us? Consider Jesus' words: "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).





## Light from the Word

Read Daniel 1:1-2.

1. What historical events are described at the very beginning of Daniel?
2. The events of verses 1-2 are often referred to as 'the Exile'. Lamentations is another Old Testament book written about this same event. Skim through Lamentations 1. What effect did the Exile have on Israel?

Read Daniel 1:3-7.

3. As well as carrying back treasure to Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar also carried back people! What did this involve for people like Daniel?

4. How do you think Daniel may have felt about all the changes being forced upon him?

5. How is Daniel's experience like ours?

Read Daniel 1:8-20.

6. Why do you think Daniel refuses to eat the king's food?

7. Compare what the royal official expects to happen to Daniel (v. 10) with what actually happens (v. 15). What do you think is the lesson of this incident?

8. This chapter describes a time of trouble and trials for God's people. What evidence do you find in the chapter that God is still in control?

### **To finish**

What are some areas of life in which you are tempted to compromise on your obedience to Jesus? In what way is this chapter a good encouragement to us?

### **Give thanks and pray**

Give thanks to God for his promise that nothing can separate us from his love (Rom 8:37-39). Pray that we won't compromise in the areas mentioned in the previous question.