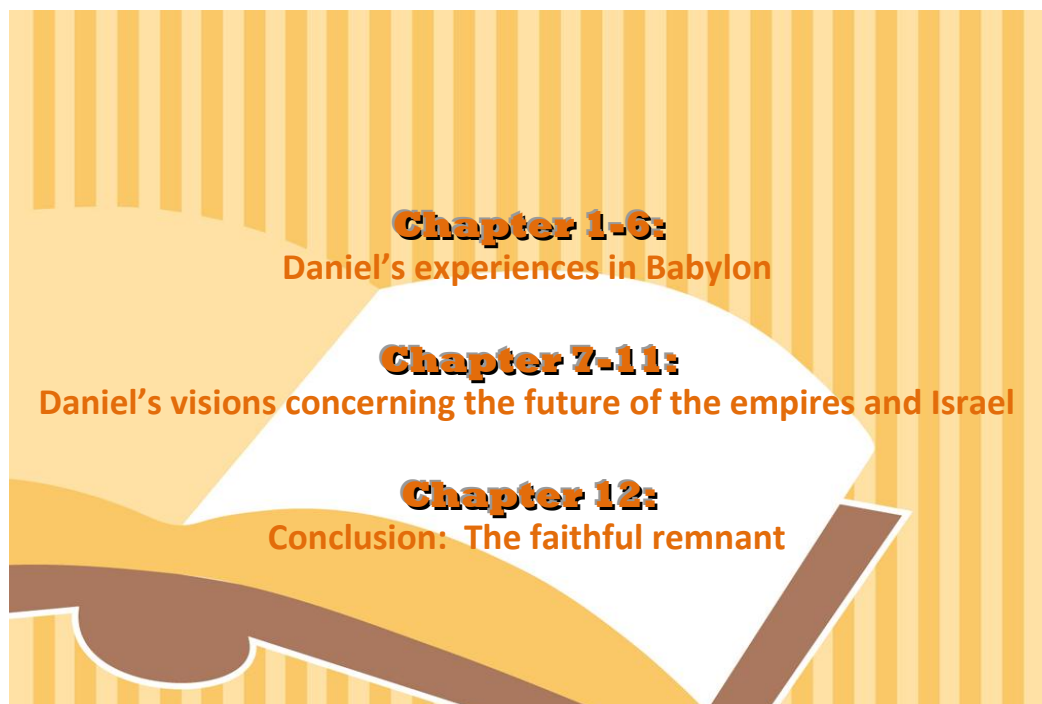


# The Book of Daniel

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**"He removes kings and raises up kings; ... He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what *is* in the darkness, and light dwells with Him."  
Daniel 2:21-22**



**How it started:** Daniel belonged to the tribe of Judah and was of noble, maybe even royal, descent. As a young man he was deported by Nebuchadnezzar from Jerusalem to Babylon (605BC) and there received training as a government official. Under Nebuchadnezzar and his successors he held highest positions for 70-75 years in the new-Babylonian and medo-persian empires.

During that time he received visions through his own and other peoples' dreams, concerning the immediate and far future of the people of Israel, as well as the empires of the Middle East. With the last vision he received the task to write everything in a book, which will be searched by many ("many shall run to and fro" has also been

translated “many shall search through it”) – “and knowledge shall increase” (chapter 12:4).

**What it is all about:** The first six chapters report on the experiences of Daniel and three other Jews in Babylon, but also on dreams and visions of the relevant kings. You read about life at the Babylonian court, careers, intrigues, banquets, dreams and visions. But really, it’s all about something different: First it is about the life of faithful Jews in heathen surroundings, secondly about God’s plans for this earth – because the things that are reported here often have also a prophetic meaning. Even more prophetic are the last six chapters: Daniel receives visions concerning the future of the empires of the Middle East and Israel, the fulfillment of which begins in Daniel’s time and reaches right into the “times of the end”. In everything God’s absolute sovereignty can be seen – He rules the world.

**How about today?** Studying the book of Daniel is of threefold value: First, your “knowledge will increase” – you learn something about the future of the earth and about God’s sovereignty. Secondly the book contains impressive examples of fulfilled prophecy – if you want proof that the Bible is the Word of God, you will find many such examples, especially in chapter 11. And thirdly, Daniel’s life shows how you can be faithful to God, although those in your surroundings don’t want to know anything about God and although there are many temptations.