

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

(revised 10/04/2024)

Week 37: Remaining Faithful - Answer Guide

Below is the answer guide for this week's lesson. By no means are the answers complete or the only possible responses to each question. They are a guide to fully understanding the intent of the questions posed.

1. Daniel means “God is my Judge” in Hebrew. His Persian name, Belteshazzar, means “Prince favored by Bel” (refer to “Bel and the Dragon” story). Daniel was taken at a young age and was indoctrinated in the Babylonian culture where he was expected to become a Babylonian. His name may have given him encouragement and strength to never bend in his faith in YHWH because he knew God was his judge.

Note: Daniel's friends names were changed also. Their original names were Hananiah, which means “Jehovah is gracious,” Mishael meaning “Who belongs to God,” and Azariah whose name means “Jehovah helps.” Daniel and his three friends names were changed to represent all four Babylonian gods: Daniel was changed to Belteshazzar (Bel), Hananiah to Shadrach (Marduk), Mishael to Meshach (Aku), and Azariah to Abednego (Nebo).

2. The book of Daniel was written in two languages, Hebrew and Aramaic. The Hebrew is in Daniel 1 through Daniel 2:3 and chapters 8-12. The Aramaic portion is confined to Daniel 2:4 through chapter 7.

Daniel uses many literary tools to communicate to his audience. He employs parallelism and chiasms throughout the book. Good sources to see these uses can be found at:

http://www.bible.literarystructure.info/bible/27_Daniel_pericope_e.html

http://www.bible.literarystructure.info/bible/27_Daniel_e_1.html

Wholistically, chapter 7 is the pivoting climax of the book that hinges on chapters 1-6 and 8-12. A short summary can be found in the chiasm below:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| A – Ancient One takes His throne | Daniel 7:9-10 |
| B – Beast slain and body throne into fire | Daniel 7:11-12 |
| A' – Son of Man presented to Ancient of Days | Daniel 7:13-14 |

This pericope really does sum up the history of rebellion, redemption and restoration found in all the Bible.

3. Listed below are times where Daniel sought God in prayer:

- 1) He enlisted his three friends to pray with him for interpretation of the King's dream (2:17).
- 2) Prayer is what got him thrown in the lion's den (6:10).
- 3) Prayer in Daniel 9:4-19 shows Daniel petitioning God when he was visited by Gabriel (who only appears here and in Luke 1:19-26). He seeks help from his peers, fasts, humbles himself and confessing his sins.

4. There is obviously more to add to this answer, but in short:

- Jesus quotes Daniel in Matthew 24:15-51 to describe the tribulation and 2nd coming of Christ to retrieve His elect.
- Paul seems to feed off Jesus' words in Matthew and describes the same thing in his 2nd letter to the Thessalonians.
- John expounds upon the last of the 70 weeks in Revelation 4-19.

5. Here is the first time Daniel employs the personal name of God, YHWH (9:2, 4, 10, 13-14). At the end of 490 years six events will take place shown in Daniel 9:24:

1. Finish the transgression
2. Make an end to sin
3. Make atonement for iniquity
4. Bring everlasting righteousness
5. Seal up vision and prophecy
6. To anoint the most holy place

The 1st three have to do with sin, the 2nd three with the future kingdom. The first three were accomplished in the work of Christ, but all six will be recognized by Israel at the Second Advent of Christ.

Note: The 70 'sevens' is broken up into 7 + 62 + 1 ...

6. Like Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dreams via prayer, Daniel interpreted Neb's dreams via prayer. Both Daniel and Paul saw a vision and the people with them didn't. Both were blinded by a light of vision. There were audible voices in both instances. Both men humbly fell to the ground in a demonstration of reverence and awe. After the vision both men were changed. Both were later comforted, Daniel by "a hand" and Paul by Ananias.

7. In the Torah God proclaims His people, Israel, are His treasured possessions (Deuteronomy 26:18). Daniel is said to have been "highly esteemed" by God which alludes to favor from God. In the New Testament Paul reiterates we are God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10). Peter proclaims in the New Testament that we are a royal priesthood. Throughout the history of mankind God has always treasured His creation, especially His elect.

8. The kings to follow the Persian downfall were Alexander the Great with four winds of heaven (his generals): Lysimachus, Cassander, Ptolemy (King of the South) and Seleucid (King of the North) ending with Antiochus Epiphanes (11:21-32). Daniel correctly prophesied the future occurrences of the conflicts Israel would encounter between Persian, Greek and Roman dominance and subjection.

9. Hosea means "Salvation" in Hebrew. The prophet Hosea lived during the downfall of Israel by Syria. His life spanned four kings of Judah (Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah). The name of his wife, Gomer, means "Complete" in Hebrew. In the book of Hosea, she symbolized Israel, God's chosen elect. From the beginning God provided Israel everything needed to be obedient children, they were "complete," yet rebellious.

10. In Hebrew the name Jezreel means "God sows," Lo-ruhamah means "no mercy," and Lo-ammi means "Not My people." His ordained marriage to a prostitute, Gomer, is a visual of the relationship between God and Israel, the adulterous nation.

Additional Questions:

- 1.** In a nutshell, the message in Daniel is that God requires obedience to His commandments, both the Law and the statutes that flow from it found in Deuteronomy and Leviticus. Throughout history man has not been able to abide by them and have rebelled against God. God, exercising abundant patience, grace and endless love, will provide a way of salvation, the Messiah to come.
- 2.** Answers will vary depending on personal experience.
- 3.** Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

