

THE NON-PROPHET'S GUIDE TO
THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Written & Illustrated by
TODD HAMPSON



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*Dedicated to Daniel, Maddie, (and our future grandchildren).
Tracey and I were studying the book of Daniel when we first discovered we were
to become parents. We decided to give you his namesake because of all that it
stands for. We made the right call and are so very proud of you and Maddie.*

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INTRODUCTION

More Relevant Now Than Ever

We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.

DANIEL 6:5

The storm was intense. Lightning lit up the sky as the violent weather rattled the large passenger plane. The sound of the jet engines, combined with the wind and thunder, produced a fearful symphony. A couple sitting in the back of the plane wished they had seats closer to the front.

Not because it would take less time for them to disembark the plane, but it would negate the vulnerability they felt sitting in the very last row as the plane cut its way through the mammoth storm at more than 33,000 feet in the air.

Similar to being seated in the last car on a roller coaster, the two passengers felt the sudden drops a lot more than the lucky souls who sat in front of them. Furthermore, the back-row occupants observed the heads of a few hundred people jolting up and down in unison with each pocket of dead air or sudden gust of wind the plane encountered. This was not your average



turbulence—the sort that provides mild tummy tickles joined by momentary fear and adrenaline. No, this was different. It was the kind of shaking they could feel in their hips as the plane suddenly yanked them down by the seatbelt.

The two weary back-row passengers put on a bold front for each other, but both were genuinely nervous behind their reassuring facial expressions. Neither had experienced this level of turbulence before. Neither had flown through such an intense thunderstorm while hurtling through the air at a few hundred miles an hour. Voices on the plane were minimal aside from the occasional gasps and a few young children crying. Fear was palpable. The couple felt the weight of the moment.

As they assessed the situation, they observed that behind them, just around the corner of the back wall, sat the three flight attendants. Each sat in a small flip-down seat with a seat belt across their lap. The three of them were quietly conversing, but not in fearful, hushed tones. Rather, they were laughing. Talking about everyday things. Chit-chatting about their lives and whatever else flight attendants talk to each other about.

The couple in the back row began to realize that the seasoned flight attendants had been through this before. Somehow the calm airline employees had confidence in both the pilot's ability and the integrity of the large plane. The fearlessness of the flight attendants was contagious, giving the young couple the sense that the pilot was trained for this—and that the plane was built for this. The entire crew of the airplane had already been trained and tested by similar storms. They were able to have confidence and joy in the middle of the storm.

What had seemed such an inconvenience to the couple suddenly became an unexpected comfort. The vulnerable and uneasy feeling of being in the back of the plane was replaced by a confident anchor of hope as they witnessed the demeanor of the calm flight attendants. As most of the other passengers continued to gasp and react to each new punch from the storm, the young couple weathered the rest of the flight with a sense of confidence and hope as they allowed the veteran courage of the flight attendants to impact their expectations.

This was the situation my son and his now-wife found themselves in during a trip with her family to Colorado a few years ago. On the way back to

Georgia, the plane encountered a serious storm that was so large they had no option but to fly straight through the heart of the atmosphere-hogging tempest. Perhaps you can relate. Maybe you feel like you are in a storm—with no way out but through the turbulent winds and terrifying lightning.

Unless you have been in a coma, living off the grid, or on an extended space mission for the past several years, you have witnessed firsthand how rapidly the world has become unstable on every significant level. The global effects resulting from COVID-19. The eroding of freedoms once held dear. Dictatorial governmental overreach. Lawlessness spanning from the streets to the highest levels of the government.



The downward spiral of upside-down delusional thinking seems to be descending more rapidly. Facts, logic, and common sense seem to be eroding as an increasing number of people are bowing to godless groupthink driven by deception and fear. Good is now seen as evil—and evil as good. Like no other time in history, since the flood of Noah's day or the Tower of Babel, have events had such a devastating global effect.

Now more than ever, as Christians we need to understand our times and to know how to live. For these reasons, I believe a careful study of the book of Daniel is greatly needed in our day. In it we can discover how to thrive during unstable times, and we can learn God's clear prophetic plans for every key plot point from Daniel's day all the way to the time of the end.

This raises a key question. Is the book of Daniel a book of practical godly living, or is it a book of prophecy? The answer is...yes! I've seen people focus on one to the detriment of the other. When it comes to the book of Daniel, it seems that teachers and authors tend to focus on either prophecy or the practical Christian living aspects of Daniel's record, but this shouldn't be the

case. Both are represented in Daniel. The first six chapters are historical narrative (with much personal application to be gleaned), and the last six chapters are full of prophecy!

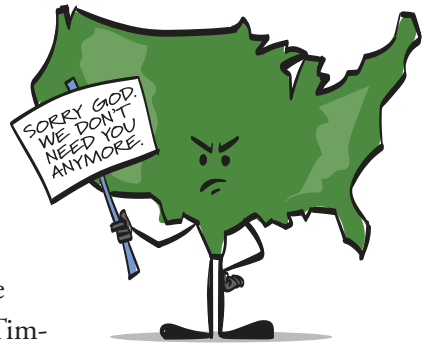


Let us not forget that God’s prophetic Word is practical. Studying prophecy strengthens our faith in a God who keeps his promises. It also prepares us for the future. The prophecies of Daniel were given in the context of victorious godly living in the midst of a pagan culture and a horrible situation. We can’t throw the baby out with the bathwater when it comes to teaching the whole counsel of God. We can’t pick and choose what to teach and what to avoid when it comes to Scripture.

The book of Daniel is more relevant now than ever. As I alluded to above, the world and the West are becoming increasingly pagan, godless, and anti-Christian. America is on a fast-track downhill slide well into the delusional thinking described in Romans chapter 1. Based on the second half of Romans 1, America—as much as I love her—is already (in my opinion) under God’s abandonment judgment. This is not God’s active wrath as will happen during the future tribulation period, but it is a gentleman’s judgment based on Romans chapter 1.

What I mean by that is this: God never forces his way or his will on people. As a country, we have systematically kicked God out of every aspect of culture and replaced him with cheap pagan counterfeits and embraced an ever-increasing depth of immorality at every turn. There is now no respect

for the innocence of children, no respect for godly principles, and an increasing hostility toward every foundational truth of the Christian faith. As our nation systematically pushes God away, it also pushes away his protection, wisdom, blessing.



What we see today is exactly what the Bible tells us the end times would look like. In 2 Timothy 3:1-5, we read,

Mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

So, what is the Christian left to do in our day? Become pessimistic? Go live off the grid? Recoil into holy huddles and curse the darkness? Go on a rant judging the world for being the world? Cower in fear and do nothing? Embrace the immorality and incorporate it into a new, updated brand of faux Christianity? Seriously, these are some of the confusing and divergent options many believers have chosen for themselves in response to what is going on in the world around them. I believe there is a different way—a path that allows Christians to thrive and embrace the moment. We are not living during these times by accident. God. Is. Sovereign. That is the key message of the book of Daniel, and it is the most practical truth we can lean into right now in this moment of history.

Daniel lived at a time of rapid change (and judgment) after a prolonged period of grace and warning from God through his prophets. From a human perspective, Daniel's world was falling apart. The prophet's home country was decimated and he was forcibly taken to enemy territory to serve in a pagan, godless, violent, and immoral setting. This was not theoretical. It was Daniel's real-life situation. Yet God used him amid all the godlessness.

In fact, the harsh reality of Daniel’s predicament provided the perfect opportunity for God to move the dial in a major way. The sweeping prophecies in the book of Daniel provide the biblical framework needed to understand the context of the New Testament, Jesus’ teaching about the end times through his kingdom-focused parables and the Olivet Discourse, and the oft-avoided book of Revelation. This can’t be overstated—Daniel contains the foundational framework for an accurate understanding of the end times.

The book of Daniel also provides some of the most practical lessons one can find on how to survive and thrive during a period of rapid change while living in a culture that is antagonistic to the truths of Scripture and the ways of God. Daniel and a few of his friends navigated the complex situation they found themselves in and avoided godless indoctrination and forced false worship. They knew where the line in the sand was and stood up for God regardless of the possible negative outcomes. By doing so, they witnessed God do miracles. They walked through flames unscathed with the Son of God, saw the mouths of hungry lions remain shut, and talked face to face with God’s supernatural messengers.

I believe we have entered a period of history that will result in two things: (1) the rapture of the church, and (2) increased global instability, Christian persecution, and antisemitism. The book of Daniel will prepare you for both! The practical lessons will equip you to stand firm as a believer—to know which lines in the sand must not be crossed. And the prophecies of Daniel will reveal God’s faithful hand at work through history, helping you understand the details and the importance of the end times—for which we are watching the stage being so clearly set!

If you want to discover your calling, understand the context behind this current period in history, and thrive like never before—regardless of what is going on around you—then turn the page and let us begin a gritty, practical, and



DANIEL

timely study in the book of Daniel. We need to reclaim a practical understanding of the sovereignty of God. Even in the midst of encroaching darkness and evil, we can still rest in God's unfailing love, provision, comfort, and joy. So, take courage as you carefully study the lessons, practical theology, and prophecies of the book of Daniel. God is the sovereign pilot who navigates the storm, and you were built for such a time as this.



The Non-Prophet

He's a Renaissance man. The ultimate throwback. The Non-Prophet is a 501(c)(3) that seems to have been born in 501 BC. He prefers the clothing, speech, food, facial grooming (or lack thereof), and customs of an archetypical Old Testament prophet living in twenty-first-century America. He misunderstands Bible prophecy and gives well-meaning but poor advice. The Non-Prophet is also not very wise with money, so he's a Non-Prophet on two levels. He's the epitome of the idiom "a day late and a dollar short."