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Outline

- I. Vashti Dismissed (1:1–22)
- II. Esther Made Queen (2:1–23)
 - A. A Replacement for Vashti Sought (2:1–4)
 - B. Esther Taken into the King's Harem (2:5–16)
 - C. Esther Crowned the New Queen (2:17–20)
 - D. Mordecai Discovers a Plot against the King's Life (2:21–23)
- III. Haman and the Decree of Death (3:1–15)
 - A. Haman Made Prime Minister (3:1)
 - B. Mordecai's Refusal to Bow (3:2–4)
 - C. Haman's Wrath and Plot against the Jews (3:5–9)
 - D. The Decree Is Sealed and Sent Out (3:10–15)
- IV. Esther's Dilemma (4:1–17)
- V. Esther's Banquet: Day One (5:1–14)
 - A. Esther Enters the King's Court (5:1–2)
 - B. The King and Haman Invited to a Banquet (5:3–5)
 - C. The King and Haman to Return (5:6–8)
 - D. Haman's Gallows (5:9–14)
- VI. Esther's Banquet: Night One (6:1–14)
 - A. The Restless King (6:1–3)
 - B. Mordecai Honored (6:4–14)
- VII. Esther's Banquet: Day Two (7:1–10)
 - A. The Request of the Queen (7:1–7)
 - B. Haman Is Hanged (7:8–10)
- VIII. Mordecai and the Counter-Decree (8:1–17)
- IX. Victory for the Jews: The Feast of Purim (9:1–32)
- X. Mordecai Prospers (10:1–3)

Key Passage

Esther 4:14–16 (ESV) ¹⁴For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this? ¹⁵Then Esther told them... ¹⁶Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish."



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Content and Structure

The book of Esther revolves around three movements in a storyline:

- I. **Beginning (1:1–2:13)**—Sets the stage for the narrative and includes the events that prepare the way for Esther's rise to queenship and Mordecai's service to the king.
- II. **Middle (3:1–9:19)**—Contains the scheme to defeat Mordecai and the Jews and its subsequent defeat.
- III. **End (9:20–10:3)**—Establishes Purim and incorporates an appendix about Mordecai.

Esther, Daniel

March 20 **Est 1-2**

March 21 **Est 3-6**

March 22 **Est 7-10**

March 25 **Dan 1-2**

March 26 **Dan 3**

March 27 **Dan 4**

March 28 **Dan 5-6**

March 29 **Dan 7-8**

April 1 **Dan 9-10**

April 2 **Dan 11-12**

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Outline

I. The Ministry of Daniel in Babylon (1:1–6:28)

- A. Daniel's identity and godly character are described (1:1–21).
- B. Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the four Gentile empires and the coming kingdom of God (2:1–49).
- C. Daniel's three friends refuse to bow before the king's idolatrous statue, are thrown into the fire, but are miraculously delivered (3:1–30).
- D. Nebuchadnezzar is humbled by the Lord of heaven for his pride (4:1–37).
- E. The handwriting on the wall warns Belshazzar of his doom for blaspheming Israel's God at an immoral feast (5:1–31).
- F. Daniel is thrown into a den of lions for his faithfulness to God but is delivered (6:1–28).

II. The Visions of Daniel in Babylon (7:1–12:13).

Content and Structure

The book of Daniel centers on two major sections:

- I. **Section 1**—Narratives of Daniel's life (1-6)
- II. **Section 2**—Daniel's visions (7-12)

Summary

The book of Daniel is characterized by vivid symbolism and reflecting heroic historical events during the Babylonian exile of the Jewish people. Because Daniel is not an easy book to understand, its interpretation requires careful study and reflection. Daniel himself wrote, when reflecting on the meaning of one of his visions, "But I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it" (Dan. 8:27).

In the old Jewish division of the OT Daniel is part of the third section, called the Writings, along with such books as Psalms, Proverbs, and Job. It was not included in the second section of the OT, called the Prophets. Although portions of his book may be interpreted from a prophetic perspective, Daniel is never explicitly identified as a prophet.

Daniel in the New Testament (87)

Quotes (0)

Allusions (58) Matt. 13:42, 13:43, 13:50, 19:28, 24:15, 24:21, 24:30, 26:64; Mark 13:14, 13:19, 13:26, 14:62; Luke 21:27, 22:69; John 5:29, 11:24, 12:34; Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 6:2, 15:24 Phil. 4:3; 2 Thess. 2:4; 2 Tim. 4:17 Heb. 11:34 Jude 9; Rev. 1:7, 1:13, 1:14, 1:15, 2:10, 2:18, 3:5, 5:11, 7:1, 7:14, 10:4, 10:5, 10:6, 11:7, 12:3, 12:4, 12:7, 12:14

Echoes (23) Matt. 4:9, 21:44, 25:46; Lk. 13:19; John 4:48 Acts 10:43, 12:23; 1 Cor. 14:25; James 5:11; Revelation 1:1, 1:19, 4:1, 10:4, 10:11, 11:15, 14:14, 16:18, 17:8, 18:10, 19:12, 19:16, 22:5, 22:10

Key Passage

Daniel 12:1 (ESV) "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.



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Daniel 2:34-35
The Kingdom of God rules over all.



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