



DR. BRYAN CHAPELL

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THE GOSPEL  
ACCORDING  
TO DANIEL

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HCPC 2020 BIBLE STUDY

**Chapter 8**

# DANIEL

## CHAPTER 8

**Ready your heart:** Ask the Father to give you insight into His Word as you prepare your heart in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit.

**Read:** Carefully read the chapter in Daniel.

**Reflect:** In the remaining space, jot down any initial observations that encourage your heart, stir your faith, or expose your need for Jesus' redeeming work.



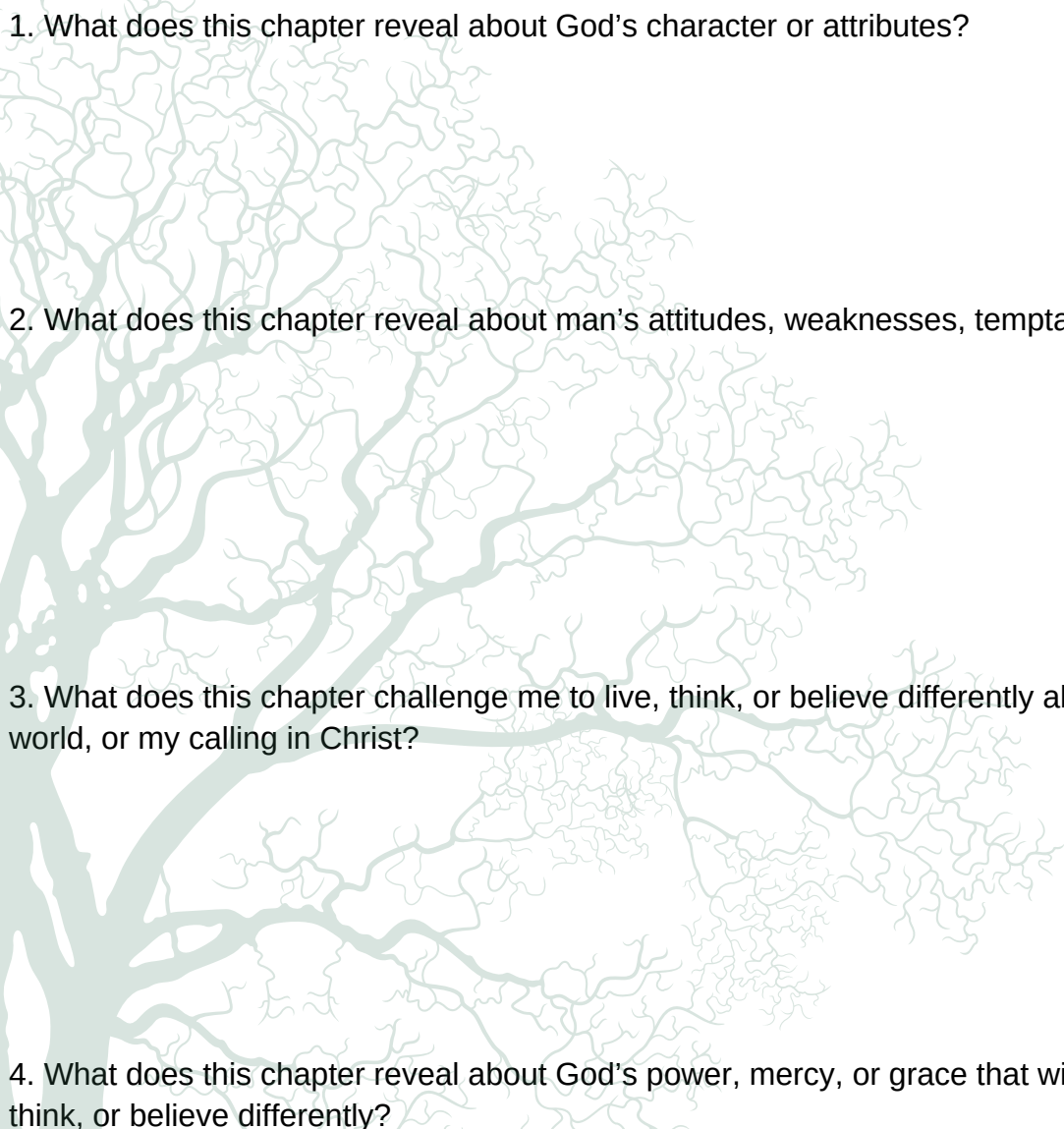
# DANIEL

## CHAPTER 8

**Ready your heart:** Ask the Father to give you insight into His Word as you prepare your heart in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit.

**Read:** Carefully read the chapter in Daniel.

**Reflect:** Answer the following diagnostic questions based on your reading of this chapter.

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1. What does this chapter reveal about God's character or attributes?
  2. What does this chapter reveal about man's attitudes, weaknesses, temptations, or sins?
  3. What does this chapter challenge me to live, think, or believe differently about God, myself, my world, or my calling in Christ?
  4. What does this chapter reveal about God's power, mercy, or grace that will enable me to live, think, or believe differently?

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**Ready your heart:** Ask the Father to give you insight into His Word as you prepare your heart in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit.

**Read:** Carefully read this chapter in The Gospel According to Daniel.

**Reflect:** In the remaining space below, jot down what appear to be the main ideas of the chapter, especially noting section headings and the major concepts that either confuse you or encourage your heart.





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**Ready your heart:** Ask the Father to give you insight into His Word as you prepare your heart in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit.

**Read:** Carefully read this chapter in The Gospel According to Daniel, (or quickly skim if you've already read) this chapter in The Gospel According to Daniel (GAtD).

**Reflect:** Answer the questions below based on the content of the chapter.

1. Chapell writes (p. 139):

*There is a not a lot of drama in this chapter—no encounters with lions or fiery furnaces or enticing details about the end of the world. And for that reason Daniel 8 does not get a lot of attention. In fact, some sermon collections on Daniel skip this chapter entirely. But this is actually a watershed chapter, because what you believe about Daniel 8 will largely determine what you believe about the rest of Scripture and what God actually promises about the rest of your life.*

**Is this a chapter you're tempted to skip or rush through? Why or why not?**

2. **How does it encourage you to remember the following from with pp. 141-142?**

*There is a great story of redemption unfolding across time and history, and those who are both enemies and advocates of God are swept up into its telling. Each one has a part, even if he or she does not intend it, because God is bringing the story to the conclusion that he intends.*

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3. On page 142, Chapell writes:

*The part of the story that Daniel tells is not without challenge. It was troubling to him, and it is troubling to us, because the plot is not without a few twists. But because we know the conclusion, we are able to live the story and love it, even when the twists involve us.*

**What does Chapell say is the first major “twist” in chapter 8? What are the historical moments to come in the next few centuries that bear this out? How does it encourage you as you face the “junk” in your life (p. 143)?**

4. Not only does evil have its day, God will “have his say”. Chapell writes:  
“The trouble is not understanding the vision; the trouble is accepting it.”

**Why do some struggle to accept that Daniel’s prophecy is supernaturally given?**

**What does acknowledging that it truly is a prophecy and that obviously came to pass mean for our daily lives?**

5. **What hope is offered when we see God’s continued control (sovereignty) over all the moments of history (both big history and our personal stories as well)?**

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6. Chapell offers a caution as we approach passages like this (p. 146):

*We must be careful here, because if we begin to interpret single texts with double fulfillments, then we can end up trying to make the level of detail we know about the nearer prophecy also apply to the end-time where we do not have the same level of detail. The result is the intrigue with and abuse of prophecy that we have witnessed to a great degree in the often-fanciful marketing of end-time revelations whose full meaning God has not yet made known. Daniel's ability to predict events many days "distant" is still impressive even if those days constitute the hundreds of years until Antiochus Epiphanes rather than the thousands of years until the climax of mortal history.*

**How do we protect ourselves against becoming divisive or dismissive of others who have a different opinion on interpreting more obscure (less clear) promises and prophecies of the Bible?**

**7. Chapell points out Daniel's disappointment with the vision of chapter 8. Why was he disappointed (p. 147)?**

**8. What are the two "mistakes" that Chapell points out when that short term disappointment shows up? How is each mistake sometimes evident in your own heart? (Use your remaining space and time to reflect on the fact that the question is not asking IF you make these mistakes but to humbly trust that even believers sometimes slip into these mistakes.)**

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**Ready your heart:** Ask the Father to give you insight into His Word as you prepare your heart in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit.

**Read:** Read back through your notes and observations from the week's study.

**Reflect:** In the remaining space below, write down things that particularly challenged or confused you in the readings this week that you could relay to your small group, as well as prayer requests and praises you wish to pass on to the group, and any additional insights that you've learned along the way.

