

# DANIEL, VOLUME 1: GOD'S MAN FOR THE MOMENT

## PROPHECY IN PANORAMA

### SELECTED SCRIPTURE



### The Heart of the Matter

We don't need to be prophets or sons and daughters of prophets to realize that the world is turned upside down. The cliff-hanging posture of the world today—terrorism, rogue nations with nuclear designs, predictions of environmental catastrophe, governmental and business corruption—spells the end of our civilization as we know it. To make sense of it all we must first understand God's plan for the future, outlined in the book of Daniel and related Scripture.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Some Introductory Matters

Looking at our world today leads us to three general conclusions.

#### 2. God's Overall Scheme (Selected Scriptures)

God's plan for the future began in eternity past and continues through five distinct eras.

#### 3. Daniel's Specific Scope

How does the book of Daniel fit into God's plan for the future? There are two things we must remember as we begin our study.



### Starting Your Journey

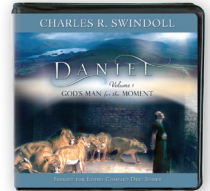
The next great event on God's prophetic calendar is the rapture of the church, and it could happen at any moment. Are you ready? Now is the moment to make sure. Place your faith in Jesus Christ who died to take away your sin and rose again to give you eternal life.



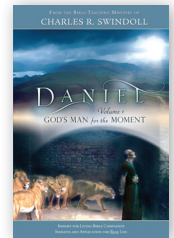
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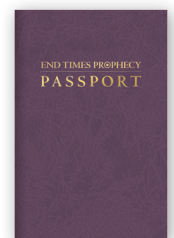
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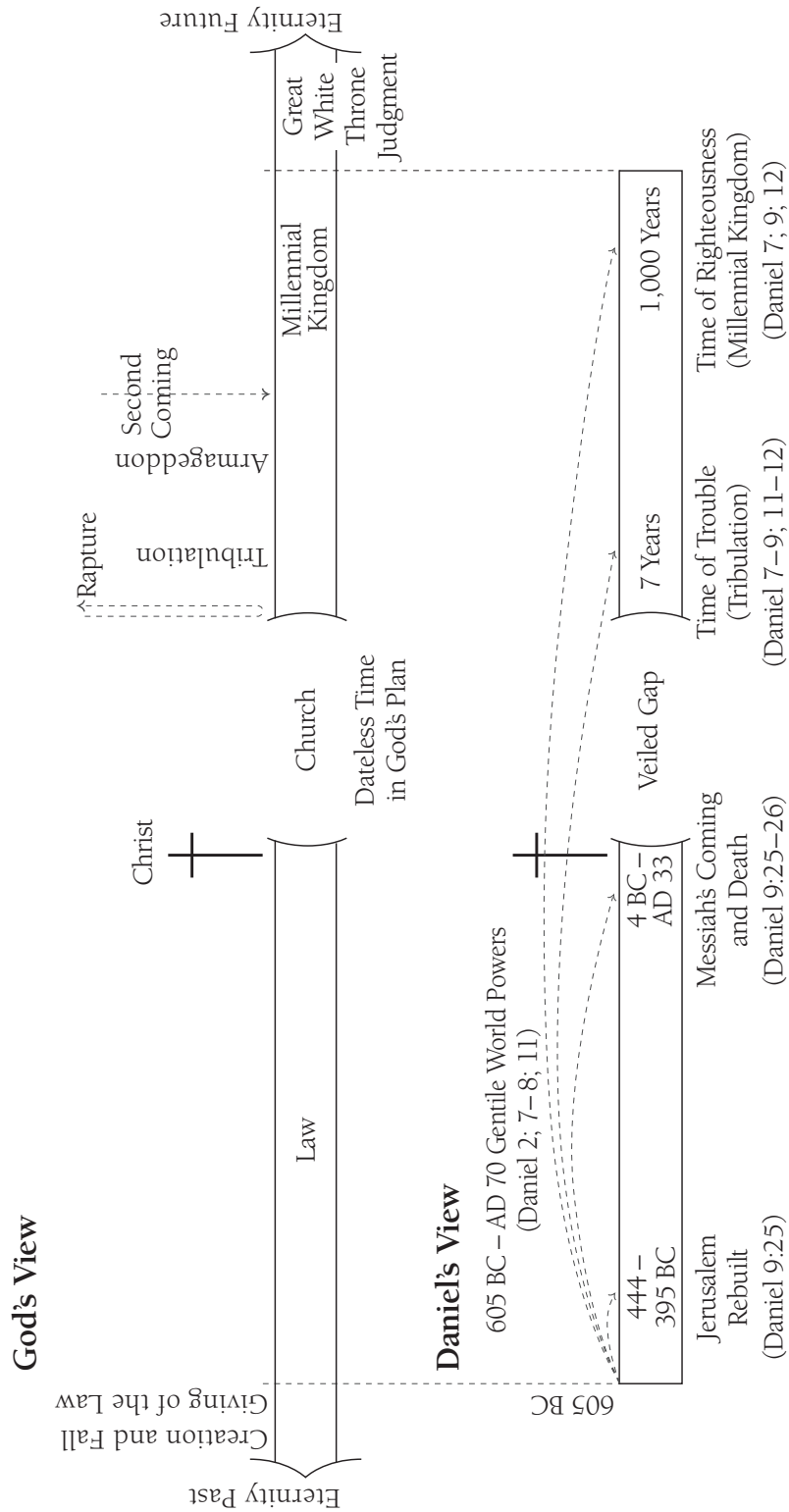
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## PROPHECY IN PANORAMA

### SELECTED SCRIPTURE

## Prophecy in Panorama



# DANIEL, VOLUME 1: GOD'S MAN FOR THE MOMENT

## HOW TO PASS A TEST WITHOUT CHEATING

### DANIEL 1



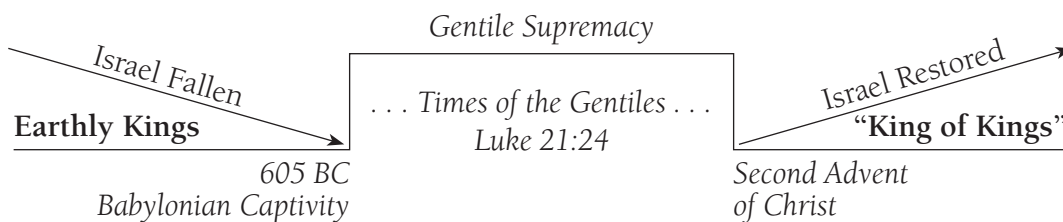
### The Heart of the Matter

The prophet Daniel is unquestionably one of the most remarkable men not only in the Bible but also in all of Jewish history. The book that bears his name traces his life from his teenaged years through his days past the age of 80. For seventy years, Daniel lived in captivity (605–536 BC) while serving in the metropolitan capital city of Babylon as prime minister. But when the Jews returned to the Promised Land, Daniel's life, work, and ministry drew to an end.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Historical Setting (Daniel 1:1–2)



#### 2. Facing the Test (Daniel 1:3–7)

Nebuchadnezzar, the ruler of Babylon, chose a few select young men to undergo the rigorous course of Babylonian education.

#### 3. Passing the Test (Daniel 1:8–21)

Daniel and his three friends were able to pass the test because they demonstrated inner conviction and a wise approach, had divine assistance, and gained a unique distinction.



### Starting Your Journey

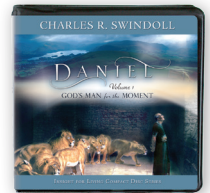
We can apply two abiding principles from Daniel's experiences to our lives. First, inner conviction can overcome any outer pressure. Second, God-honoring convictions yield God-given rewards.



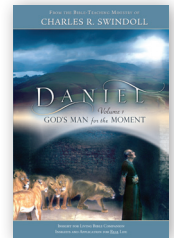
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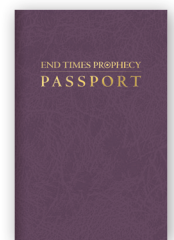
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# DANIEL, VOLUME 1: GOD'S MAN FOR THE MOMENT

## A KING ON THE COUCH

DANIEL 2:1–30



### The Heart of the Matter

Startled from his sleep by a nightmarish dream, King Nebuchadnezzar called his magicians, conjurers, and sorcerers together and put them to a test. Would they be able to relate the dream and give its interpretation? Each of these learned men failed. In a fit of rage, the king ordered the death of all the wise men of Babylon—even those who had not been asked about the dream, such as Daniel and his three friends. But with wisdom, Daniel asked for time and God gave the answer.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Historical Setting (Daniel 2:1–3)

Nebuchadnezzar had been king for two years when he became troubled by a dream.

#### 2. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2:4–13)

The failure of Nebuchadnezzar's wise men to tell and interpret the dream led to a threatening decision.

#### 3. Daniel's Response (Daniel 2:14–30)

Daniel exhibited four wise responses before the captain, his friends, the Lord, and the king.

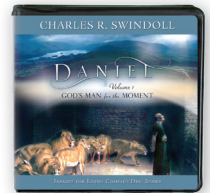


### Starting Your Journey

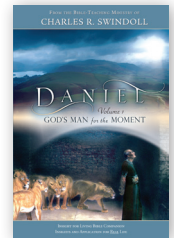
Three practical conclusions follow this story. First, God works best in humanly impossible predicaments. Second, our most effective source of stability is prayer. Third, when God works, there's no room for pride, only praise.



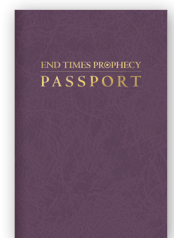
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# DANIEL, VOLUME 1: GOD'S MAN FOR THE MOMENT

A BLUEPRINT OF TOMORROW

DANIEL 2:31-49



## The Heart of the Matter

Nebuchadnezzar may have been anxious to know the interpretation of his dream, but he probably winced when Daniel told him that Babylon would not endure for eternity. How did Daniel know? The Lord revealed to him the king's dream of a great statue made of precious metals and clay and of a rock that destroyed the statue and grew into a mountain. This was God's blueprint for the future—a blueprint encompassing the whole world, beginning with Babylon.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. Revelation of the Dream (Daniel 2:31-35)

Daniel revealed the details of Nebuchadnezzar's dream: he saw a great statue made up of individual parts.

### 2. Interpretation of the Dream (Daniel 2:36-45)

Daniel related the meaning of each part of the statue—including the head, breast and arms, belly and thighs, legs, and feet—and of the stone.

### 3. Promotion of the Prophet (Daniel 2:46-49)

Nebuchadnezzar responded with praise, and Daniel reacted with magnanimity.

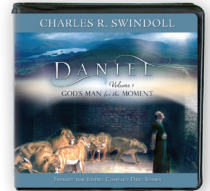


## Starting Your Journey

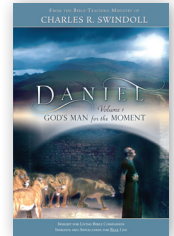
Two general truths follow Daniel's interpretation. First, we really are approaching the end of time as we know it. Second, all investment in earthly kingdoms are at best only temporary.



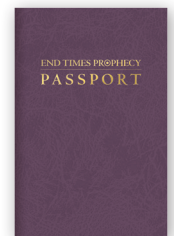
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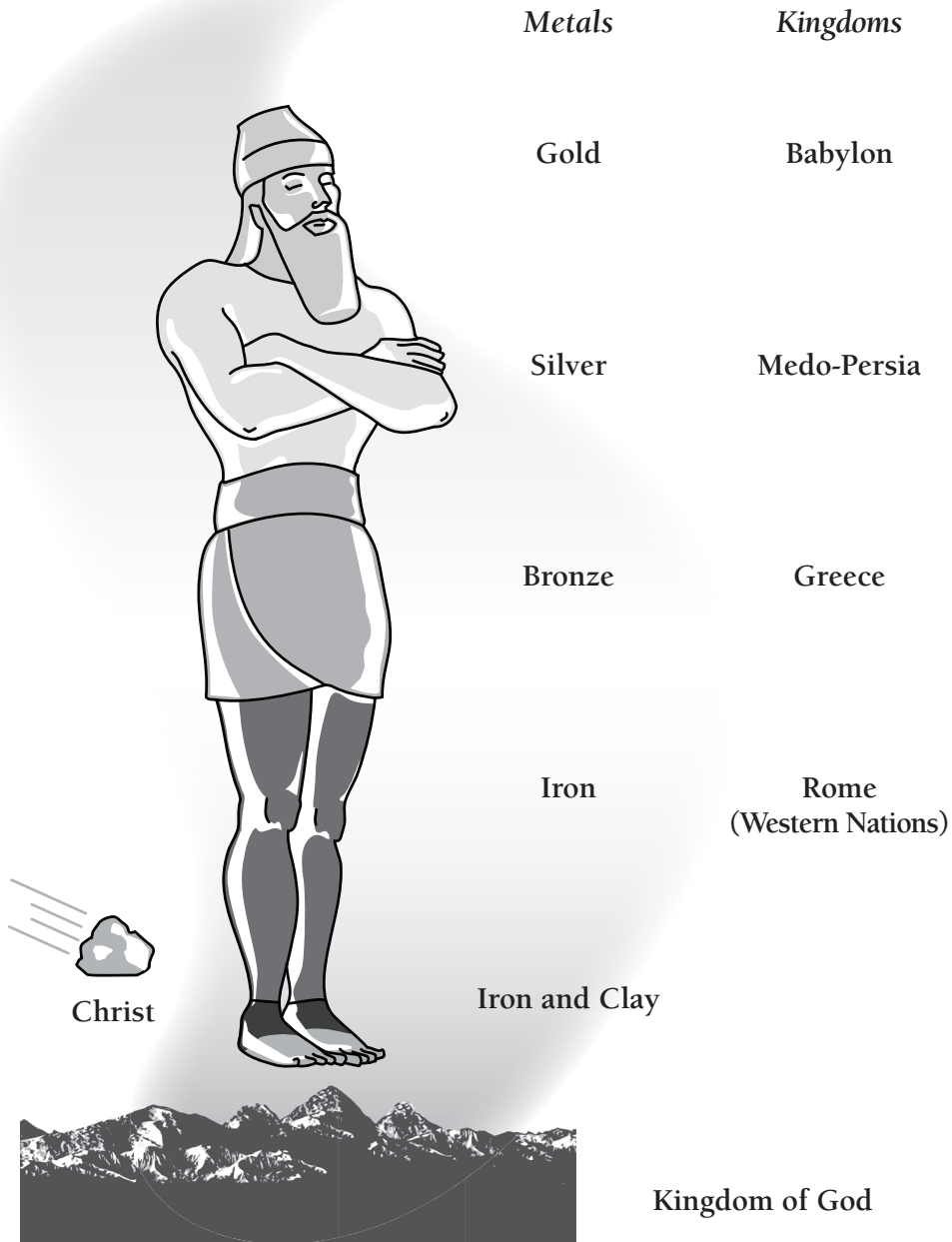


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DANIEL, VOLUME 1: GOD'S MAN FOR THE MOMENT  
 A BLUEPRINT OF TOMORROW  
 DANIEL 2:31-49



Summary of Daniel's Interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's Dream



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DANIEL, VOLUME 1: GOD'S MAN FOR THE MOMENT  
A RAGTIME BAND AND A FIERY FURNACE  
DANIEL 3



### The Heart of the Matter

Why is it that the righteous are made to suffer? When we have been obedient to God, why do we often have to endure fiery ordeals? Where is God during these times? And what of His fairness and justice? These are natural questions for those who suffer unjustly. Daniel's three friends—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego—could have asked similar questions. They literally went through a fiery trial, but they discovered that God was in their midst. And this truth is a comfort when the suffering and questions come.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. The King's Image: A Statue (Daniel 3:1–12)

Many years after Nebuchadnezzar's dream, he built a great statue and ordered all to bow and worship it.

#### 2. The Fiery Furnace: A Test (Daniel 3:13–30)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego refused to worship the statue and were thrown into a blazing furnace, but they weren't in there alone.



### Starting Your Journey

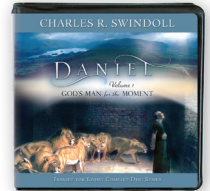
We can learn three lessons from these three men. First, God is sovereign whether the result is triumph or tragedy. Second, suffering is necessary whether it seems fair or unfair. Third, deliverance is impressive whether seen by the godly or ungodly.



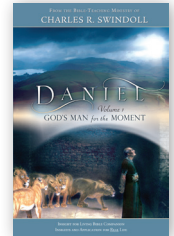
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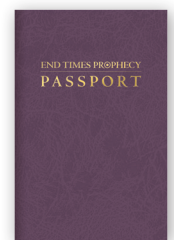
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DANIEL, VOLUME 1: GOD'S MAN FOR THE MOMENT  
INSOMNIA, INSANITY, AND INSIGHT  
DANIEL 4



### The Heart of the Matter

Clichés endure because they are so often true to life. This applies to “Truth is stranger than fiction.” Put another way, “This must be true because no one could make this up.” These statements accurately capture the story in Daniel 4, one of the most unusual chapters in the Bible. King Nebuchadnezzar had another dream. But this one proved to be his undoing and then his renewing. Proudful as a man, he became insane and lived like a beast until he humbled himself and praised God with some of the most eloquent words ever to fall from human lips.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. The King and His Dream (Daniel 4:1–18)

Nebuchadnezzar was the author of this chapter. He began with a word of praise and then recounted the story that led to his change of heart—a dream of a large and luscious tree.

#### 2. The Prophet and His Response (Daniel 4:19–27)

As they had in the past, the wise men failed to interpret the king’s dream. But Daniel once again succeeded—giving the interpretation and confronting the king about what awaited him because of his pride.

#### 3. The Lord and His Dealings (Daniel 4:28–37)

The Lord is patient, but His patience will not endure forever. For Nebuchadnezzar, judgment was a year in waiting, but when it came, it came suddenly and only relented when he humbled himself.



### Starting Your Journey

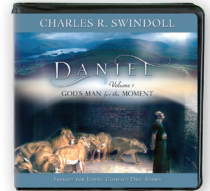
Two lessons remain. First, God’s judgment may be slow, but it is certain. Second, God will go to any extreme to show us He is Lord.



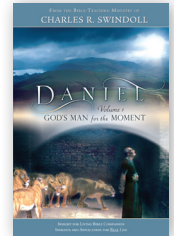
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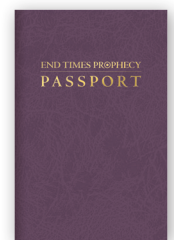
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DANIEL, VOLUME 1: GOD'S MAN FOR THE MOMENT  
THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL  
DANIEL 5



### The Heart of the Matter

Courage is a foundation virtue, because it assures the validity of all other virtues. Without courage, convictions become corrupt. But with courage, convictions are honored. Courage is that quality of controlling and directing fear into positive action. And though Daniel had already proved himself a man of courage, new reserves of valor were needed to stand up to a profane king and deliver a message of destruction.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. A Setting to Understand (Daniel 5:1)

Chapter 5 introduces us to a new king, Belshazzar, and the feast he threw even though Babylon was under siege by the Medes and Persians.

#### 2. A Feast to Remember (Daniel 5:1–12)

Belshazzar's feast showed contempt for the power of the Medes and Persians, as well as for the power of God—a slight that would not go unchallenged.

#### 3. A Man to Admire (Daniel 5:13–29)

Daniel courageously refused the king's gifts and delivered a message of destruction.

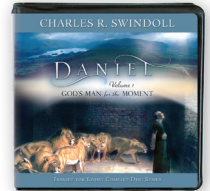


### Starting Your Journey

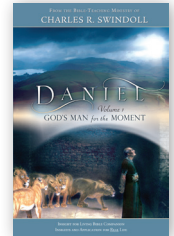
Two lessons apply from Daniel 5:30–31. First, God's judgment may seem slow, but it's thorough. Second, never underestimate the power of a godly life.



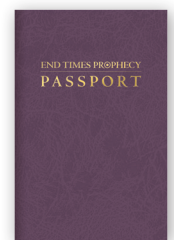
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# DANIEL, VOLUME 1: GOD'S MAN FOR THE MOMENT

## THE MARKS OF INTEGRITY

DANIEL 6:1-16



### The Heart of the Matter

Of all the great men and women in the Bible, Daniel certainly ranks as one of the greatest. Without dispute he was a man of courage. But courage was not what made him great. History is filled with courageous devils. Daniel was great because he was exactly who he appeared to be—a man of unassailable integrity. Though this would prove dangerous, Daniel would not compromise his honor.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Some Introductory Matters (Daniel 6:1-3)

With a new ruler in Babylon, Daniel's integrity was quickly recognized and he was reassigned to a new position in the government.

First Mark: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Plot against Daniel (Daniel 6:4-16)

Daniel's integrity grated on his fellow governmental officials, so they attempted to accuse him of misdeeds and persuaded Darius to write an injunction that would lead to Daniel's arrest and punishment.

Second Mark: \_\_\_\_\_

Third Mark: \_\_\_\_\_

Fourth Mark: \_\_\_\_\_



### Starting Your Journey

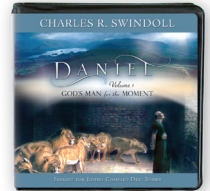
Three practical lessons should be applied today. First, you will seldom get what you deserve from people—don't expect it. Second, you will always get what is best from God—don't doubt it. Third, your ability to handle both is directly related to the consistency of your walk with God.



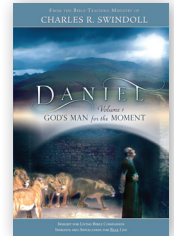
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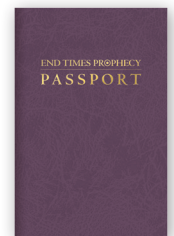
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# DANIEL, VOLUME 1: GOD'S MAN FOR THE MOMENT

## THE LIONS IN DANIEL'S DEN

DANIEL 6:16–28



### The Heart of the Matter

Whatever the eye perceives, it doesn't see it all. This is true not only in seeing but also in understanding what God is doing in the lives of His children. Our limited perspective leads us to the false assumption that the godly should not suffer, that God should prevent them from enduring trials. But what we do not see from our truncated vantage point is how God uses the patient endurance of His suffering servants to bring others to Christ.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Daniel in the Lions' Den (Daniel 6:16–18)

Daniel had violated Darius's decree. But it was a vile law that violated a higher law—God's command to worship only Him—which Daniel would not violate even if it meant punishment.

#### 2. The Lions in Daniel's Den (Daniel 6:19–23)

Because of Daniel's faithfulness to obey God and his trust in God to deliver him from the lions, the Lord shut the mouths of the beasts, to the great pleasure of Darius.

#### 3. The Accusers in the Lions' Den (Daniel 6:24)

Darius, now knowing that he had been misled in signing the decree, retaliated against those who brought charges against Daniel by having them thrown to the lions.

#### 4. Darius in God's Den (Daniel 6:25–28)

Darius praised God and issued a decree that the Lord should be praised by all peoples.



### Starting Your Journey

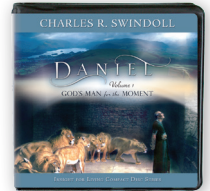
Your perspective will determine who's in whose den. If we could see our suffering from God's perspective, we'd learn that suffering is in our den and that He is using us to touch another's life.



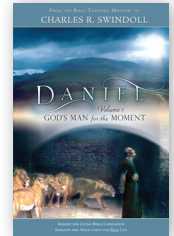
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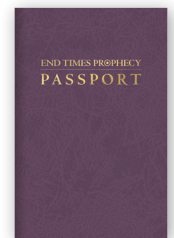
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