

# “What time is it?”

By Verta Giddings

## Lesson 2 – “Time to Pray”

**Psalm 55:17** – “Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice.”

### **The way Daniel prayed and trusted the Lord:**

When the people of God in Jerusalem had been taken captive because of their turning from God to idols; Daniel and his three friends were transported to Babylon, a heathen country.



They were very young, likely teenagers.

Daniel 1:1-21

Here they were in this pagan court of Nebuchadnezzar. These were bright, well-favored young men, talented and skillful. The King wanted to make them over into what he wanted them to be.

Daniel, although very young, knew what he must do. **He must take a stand** – Daniel 1:8. He would not sin against God by eating and drinking the things forbidden by God's law.

God had given Daniel favor with the one over him. Daniel politely asked if he and his friends could go on a special diet to avoid doing wrong. It was granted.

At the end of ten days, these four young men looked better and were smarter than the others who were to be trained for these positions.

## **Chapter 2 of Daniel:**

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, a serious dream, which troubled him greatly. Then he forgot it, but he just had to find out what it meant.

He called his own wise men. They could not tell the king the dream. They claimed not a man on earth could do this – v. 10.

The king was so angry he said **all** the wise men of Babylon would be killed. That would have included Daniel and his friends. Daniel **believed** God would show him the dream – vs. 12-16.

How did Daniel think he would be able to tell the dream and the meaning? The answer is: Daniel and his three friends **prayed** – vs. 17-18.

When the secret was made known to Daniel, he really **praised the Lord** – vs. 19-23. Then Daniel was allowed to go to the king – vs. 25-27. He was able to tell the dream and the interpretation.

Oh, how he testified that it was the God of heaven **Who** had shown him. He told the king it was not his own wisdom, but he had this revealed from the Lord – Verse 28.

### **Chapter 5:**

Later, another kingdom took over the kingdom of Babylon while Nebuchadnezzar's grandson was on the throne. The Lord allowed Daniel to read the strange handwriting on the wall. That very night Babylon fell and the Medes and the Persians took over.

The new ruler, Darius, could tell Daniel was special. He became his choice to be over other rulers, presidents, and princes. Daniel was an old man by

this time, for this was 68 years after he arrived in Babylon.

## Chapter 6

Daniel had trusted God all his life. He had served under several rulers – vs. 1-3. The presidents and princes became jealous of Daniel, and tried to find a way to get rid of him.

They could find no fault with him except what Daniel believed and how he served the true God – v. 5. They went to the king and said he should make a law that no one should ask a petition (meaning no one should pray) to anyone except the king or that one would be thrown into the den of lions.

The king signed the order – v. 9. Daniel knew, and so do we, that no mere man even if he might be a king, could answer prayer.

Did this stop Daniel from praying? **NO!!!** – v. 10. He did what he had always done. He went into his house, opened his windows toward Jerusalem, kneeled down, and prayed three times a day. **He prayed and gave thanks.**

The wicked men went right away and told King Darius. The king didn't want Daniel to be cast in to the lions' den, but there was nothing he could do to stop it at this point. He had signed the decree!

He did say to Daniel, “Thy God whom thou servest **continually**, He will deliver thee,” – v. 16. Daniel was thrown into the den, with a stone upon the mouth of the den and it was sealed.

Would you believe that Daniel had a better night than King Darius? The king spent the night fasting. He didn’t want any music brought in, and he couldn’t sleep. Early in the morning, he rushed to the lions’ den. He cried out to Daniel to find out if he were still alive. It looks as ‘tho the king must have thought Daniel would be alive – v. 20.

Sure enough, Daniel answered him, telling him that God had sent His angel and **shut the lions’ mouth**. Again, Darius said Daniel had **continually** served the Lord. What a wonderful testimony! Then Daniel was brought out of the den.

The ones who had tried to have Daniel destroyed were thrown into the lions den – v. 24. All these were killed, for the lions suddenly became hungry. The king proclaimed to all that Daniel’s God was the living God – vs. 25-27.

After the lions’ den experience, Daniel received many visions of future events. Chapter 9 tells more about Daniel’s prayer life. He sought the Lord when he didn’t understand why they (the Jews) were still held in captivity in Babylon. The Lord showed him

many things, some good and some bad. He was even shown the time when the Messiah (**our Jesus**) would be born, and much, much more.

Daniel prayed all his life. He had the testimony of one who really served the God of heaven and one who prayed. Do you pray? We can pray about **everything** and can pray **everywhere**.

### **Questions – Multiple choice:**

1. Daniel and his (three, six, two) friends were brought from Jerusalem to Babylon. V. 6
2. Being well favored, they were to be taught the learning and language of the (Romans, Greeks, Chaldeans – same as Babylon). V.4
3. Daniel's name was changed to (Shadrack, Abednego, Belteshazzar) V. 7.
4. Daniel purposed in his (thoughts, heart, imagination) that he would not defile himself with food and drink forbidden by the law of the Lord. V. 8.
5. The test to see if they would do all right without those wrong things lasted (five, forty, ten) days. V. 12. They did well.

6. When Daniel was still young, the King of Babylon had a dream. He called his wise men to tell his dream and what it meant. They told him they couldn't do that. The king was (angry, happy, didn't care). Dan. 2:12.
7. Daniel went to the king and asked for (place, time, money) to get the answer for him V. 16.
8. Daniel and his friends went before (the God of heaven, other people, the gods of Babylon) for this need. V. 18.
9. Daniel received the answer in a (day, afternoon, night) vision. V. 19.
10. After this, Daniel was honored, given gifts, and made a (ruler, servant, errand boy). V.48
11. Daniel still prayed when he was old. He was set over 3 presidents and (320, 180, 120) princes. Dan. 6:1-3
12. These men became jealous but could find no fault with Daniel except against (the law of his God, his clothes, his money). V. 5
13. They tricked the king into signing a decree, to put anyone into the (pig pen, den of lions, snake pit) who wouldn't ask a petition (pray) to the king. V.7

14. Instead of being afraid, Daniel, as usual prayed to God, with his windows open toward (Babylon, Egypt, Jerusalem). V. 10
15. That is how Daniel landed in the lions' den. The king said Daniel served God (once in awhile, off and on, continually). V. 16
16. The king spent the night (sleeping, fasting having a good time). V. 18
17. The next morning Daniel was able to tell the king that the angel of the Lord had (made the lions sleepy, shut the lions' mouths, hurt each other). V. 22
18. The ones who spoke against Daniel were (cast into the den of lions, honored, promoted). V. 24
19. God was given praise for this victory. King Darius made a new decree that (in some parts, in every dominion, in certain places) of his kingdom, men should tremble and fear Daniel's God. V. 26
20. Daniel kept on praying even after 70 years in Babylon. He set his (heart, face, mind) unto the Lord. Dan. 9:3. The Lord showed Daniel many things in the future. **It pays to pray.**

**Find the following words in the puzzle block on page 10:**

**DANIEL**

**PRAY**

**STAND**

**FAVOR**

**FRIENDS**

**SECRET**

**PRAISED**

**LORD**

**KING**

**HEAVEN**

**WALL**

**SPECIAL**

**CHOICE**

**TRUSTED**

**SERVED**

**LIONS**

**KNEELED**

**THANKS**

S S G Q  
 P L D Y P Z J P  
 Y D L I R Q N E J E E L E S  
 X Q B G D G E C S D C S U P N  
 H T J L M N I I P E P I D D S Y  
 Z B C T I R O G V R D A E N A A  
 B T T K F H D R Z R A L O R I  
 K D R H C M E D O J E I P N F  
 U O A S F L K E L T S H  
 S M O N D A N I E L T E L  
 S T K O L K K V R Y X A A D X  
 K E H L Y F S C O G M N V G C  
 T D A U S P E K R S D E A G  
 W A I R S H T D N M  
 H L S C Z D