

Why Daniel?

As we begin our upcoming sermon series and Bible study on the Old Testament book of Daniel, it is natural to ask: *Why Daniel?*

To be candid, one reason for this study is to help prepare us for the Revelation Bible study planned for this fall. Daniel is often considered the apocalyptic book of the Old Testament, and a deeper understanding of Daniel can greatly enrich our reading of Revelation. However, that is certainly not the only reason.

Many of us recognize familiar stories from Daniel—accounts we may have first encountered as children. Revisiting these well-known narratives is valuable, but Daniel also offers an important message for all who seek to remain faithful to God.

Daniel and his companions—Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (also known as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)—were taken into exile in Babylon and placed in the service of a foreign king. **Their story is one of steadfast faithfulness in a setting that was often hostile to God's purposes and ways. As we will see, they provide a powerful example of trusting and serving God even in difficult circumstances.**

While we may not live in exile as they did, we do live in a world that can make it challenging to remain faithful, let alone to grow spiritually. During this season of Lent—a time of penance, reflection, and preparation to meet the Risen Lord—we can learn much from Daniel and his friends about staying true to God, serving Him faithfully, and deepening our faith amid life's challenges.

Everyone is encouraged to participate as we journey together through the book of Daniel. **Each week, the Sunday sermon will draw from Daniel as we explore its message and meaning for our lives today.**

In addition, a weekly video will be made available each Sunday at noon on the church's Facebook and YouTube pages. In these videos, Pastor Dave will provide helpful background and context for the chapters we will be studying that week. Handouts are also available, offering daily readings and reflection questions to guide you throughout the week.

While this study can certainly be done individually, we strongly encourage everyone to take part in a small group where you can share insights, ask questions, and grow together in faith. **For those who are unable to join a group, Pastor Dave will host a Zoom gathering each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM for a time of information and Q&A.**