

God's  
*B*lueprint  
for Bible  
Prophecy

KAY ARTHUR



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## The New Inductive Study Series GOD’S BLUEPRINT FOR BIBLE PROPHECY

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## HOW TO GET STARTED...



Reading directions is sometimes difficult and seldom enjoyable! Most often you just want to get started, and only if all else fails will you read the instructions. I understand, but please don't approach this study that way! These brief instructions are a vital part of getting started on the right foot—they will help you immensely.

### FIRST

As you study the book of Daniel, you will need four things in addition to this book:

1. A Bible that you are willing to mark in. An ideal Bible for this purpose is *The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*. The *NISB* is in a single-column text format with large, easy-to-read type which is ideal for marking. Also, the margins of the text are wide for note-taking. (The charts and maps in this study guide are taken from the *NISB*.) The *NISB* has instructions for studying each book of the Bible, but does not contain commentary on the text, nor is it compiled from a particular theological stance. Its purpose is to teach you how to discern truth for yourself through the inductive method of study.

Whatever Bible you use, just know you will need to mark in it—marking is essential to our method of study.

2. A fine-point, four-color ballpoint pen or various colored fine-point pens that you can use to write in your Bible (office supply stores will have these).

3. Colored pencils or an eight-color Pentel pencil.

4. A composition book or a notebook for working on your assignments and recording your insights.

## SECOND

1. As you study the book of Daniel, you will be given specific instructions for each day. These assignments should take you 25 to 30 minutes a day (but if you spend more time than this you will increase your intimacy with the Word of God and the God of the Word!).

If you are doing this study within the framework of a class and find the lessons too intense, simply do what you can. To do a little is better than to do nothing; don't be all-or-nothing when it comes to Bible study.

Remember, any time you get into the Word of God you enter into more intensive warfare with the devil (our enemy). Why? Every piece of the Christian's armor is related to the Word of God. And our main offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. The enemy wants you to have a dull sword. But you don't have to!

2. As you read each chapter, train yourself to ask the "5 W's and an H": who, what, when, where, why, and how. Asking these questions will help you see exactly what the Word of God is saying. When you interrogate the text with the 5 W's and an H, you ask questions like:

- a. **What** is the chapter about?
- b. **Who** are the main characters?
- c. **When** does this event or teaching take place?
- d. **Where** does this happen?

- e. **Why** is this being done or said?
- f. **How** did this happen?

3. The “when” of events or teachings is very important and should be marked in an easily recognizable way in your Bible. I do this by putting a clock (like the one shown here)  in the margin of my Bible beside the verse where the time phrase occurs. You may also want to underline or color the references to time in one specific color.

4. You will be given certain key words to mark throughout the book of Daniel. This is the purpose of the colored pencils and pen. Developing the habit of marking your Bible in this way will make a significant difference in the effectiveness of your study and how much you remember.

A **key word** is an important word that is used by the author repeatedly in order to convey his message to his reader. Certain key words will show up throughout the book; others will be concentrated in specific chapters or segments of the book. When you mark a key word, you should also mark its synonyms (words that mean the same thing in the context) and pronouns (*he, his, she, her, it, we, they, us, our, you, their, them*) in the same way.

Marking words for easy identification can be done with colors or symbols or a combination of colors and symbols. However, colors are easier to distinguish than symbols. If I use symbols, I keep them very simple. For example, I color *repent* yellow but put a red diagram around it: . The symbol conveys the meaning of the word.

When I mark the members of the Godhead (which I do not always mark), I color each word yellow. But I also use a purple pen and mark the Father with a triangle:  God, symbolizing the Trinity. I mark the Son this way: Jesus, and the Holy Spirit like this:  Spirit .

Your color-coding system for marking key words should be standard throughout your Bible so that when you look at the pages of your Bible, you can see instantly where a key word is used. When you start marking key words, it is easy to forget how you are marking them. I recommend using the bottom portion of the perforated card at the back of this book to write the key words on. Color-code the words and then use the card as a bookmark. You may want to make one bookmark for words you are marking throughout your Bible and a different one for the specific book of the Bible you are studying.

5. A chart called DANIEL AT A GLANCE is located at the end of this study. As you complete your study of each chapter, record the main theme of that chapter under the appropriate chapter number. The main theme of a chapter is what the chapter deals with the most. It may be an event or a particular subject or teaching.

If you fill out the DANIEL AT A GLANCE chart as you progress through the study, you will have a complete synopsis of the book when you finish. If you have *The New Inductive Study Bible*, you will find this chart in your Bible. By recording your chapter themes there, you'll always have them for ready reference.

6. Always begin your study with prayer. As you do your part to handle the Word of God accurately, remember that the Bible is a divinely inspired book. The words you are reading are truth, given to you by God so you can know Him and His ways more intimately. These truths are divinely revealed.

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men

knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:10,11).

Therefore, ask God to reveal His truth to you as He leads and guides you into all truth. He will, if you will ask.

7. Each day when you finish your lesson, meditate on what you learned. Ask your heavenly Father how you should live in light of the truths you have just studied. At times, depending on how God has spoken to you through His Word, you might want to record these “Lessons for Life” (LFLs) in your Bible next to the text you studied. Simply put “LFL” in the margin of your Bible, and then, as briefly as possible, record the lesson for life that you want to remember.

### THIRD

This study is set up so that you have an assignment for every day of the week. If you work through your study this way, you will find it more profitable than doing a week’s study in one sitting. Pacing yourself this way allows time for thinking through what you learn and puts you in the Word *daily!*

The seventh day of each week has several features that are different than the other days. These features are designed to aid group discussion; however, they are also profitable if you are studying this book on your own. The “seventh day” is whatever day in the week you choose to finish your week’s study. On this day, you will find a verse or two to memorize and STORE IN YOUR HEART. This will help you focus on a major truth or truths covered in your study that week.

To assist those using the material in a Sunday school class or a group Bible study, there are QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY. Even if you are not doing

this study with someone else, answering these questions will contribute greatly to your study.

If you are in a group, be sure every member of the class—including the teacher—supports his or her answers and insights *from the Bible text itself*. Then you will be handling the Word of God accurately. Always examine your insights by carefully observing the text to see what it *says*. Then, before you decide what the passage of Scripture *means*, make sure you interpret it in light of its context. Scripture never contradicts Scripture. If it ever seems to contradict the rest of the Word of God, you can be certain that something is being taken out of context. If you come to a passage that is difficult to understand, reserve your interpretations for a time when you can study the passage in greater depth.

The primary purpose of the THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK section is to share with you what I consider to be an important element for that week of study. I have included it for your evaluation and, hopefully, your edification. This section will help you walk in light of what you learned.

Books in The New Inductive Study Series are survey courses. If you want to do a more in-depth study of a particular book of the Bible, I suggest you do a Precept Upon Precept Bible study course on that book. You may obtain more information on these courses by contacting Precept Ministries International at 800-763-8280, visiting our website at [www.precept.org](http://www.precept.org), or filling out and mailing the response card at the back of this book.

## **SPECIAL NOTE TO LEADERS**

If you are planning on leading this NISS study in a group setting, you may find it valuable to also work through the inductive course I have written on the book of

Daniel called *In God's Plan...What Is Happening on Earth?* Some adults have also studied an inductive course I wrote for teens called *Daniels for the 1990s*. These studies take about five hours a week. I also have lecture tapes which accompany each lesson to enhance and expand what you have seen on your own as you worked through the lesson. The use of the lecture tapes (available in either audio or video format) is optional.

In addition to my teaching tapes we offer leader guides that are designed to help anyone who plans to lead a group discussion on either of these studies.

If you are interested in these materials, call Precept Ministries International, Information Services at 800-763-8280.



*D*ANIEL



## INTRODUCTION



If you love prophecy or are curious (maybe even nervous) about the future, you need to familiarize yourself with the book of Daniel, God’s blueprint for prophecy. And in the midst of all its incredible prophecies that take us to the time of the end, Daniel gives us more than God’s blueprint for prophecy! The book of Daniel provides us with someone we can pattern our lives after—a man who receives accolades in heaven’s court and who is referred to as “a man of high esteem.”

It is my prayer that your passion will be to live as a person of high esteem in the eyes of God and the angelic host who serve Him. I pray that you will come to know Him as *El Elyon*, the Most High God who does according to His will in His army and among the inhabitants of the earth. In that knowledge and the relationship it brings, you, my friend, will find the peace which passes all understanding and which is able to hold you in the darkest of nights.

Such knowledge, Beloved, should enable you to be strong and do exploits...



DETERMINED TO BE  
A “DANIEL”



  
DAY ONE

Read through Daniel 1 today to familiarize yourself with the historical setting of this book. Also look for any reference to time and mark or color it in a distinctive way. As suggested in the instructions at the beginning of the book, you may want to use the symbol of a clock 🕒 to mark words or phrases referring to time.

When you finish your reading, write down the names of the main characters mentioned in this chapter in your notebook. (You should stop now and take the time to learn how to spell Nebuchadnezzar and Jehoiakim.)

  
DAY TWO

Read through Daniel 1 again today. (If you read the chapter aloud every day you will find you grasp it more quickly and remember it more easily.)

Note the names of the two kings and the kingdoms over which each rules. Observe what one king does to the other and the result of this action. Record your insights in your notebook.



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DAY THREE

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Today, read Daniel 1 again and mark two key words, each in a distinctive way: *Daniel* and *God*. Be sure you remember to mark any pronouns that refer to them also. These are two key words you'll want to mark throughout the book of Daniel. The other key words you'll mark are specific to chapters or sections of the book. I'll give you those words as we progress throughout the book. (If you need help in understanding how to mark key words, go back and read the instructions related to key words in the "How to Get Started" section at the beginning of this book.)

Read 2 Chronicles 36:1-8 and look for the names of the two kings you saw mentioned in Daniel 1. If you observe any new insights on these kings, record these in your notebook with what you noted yesterday. Look for the names of these kings on the chart THE RULERS AND PROPHETS OF DANIEL'S TIME on page 19 and note the year these events take place.



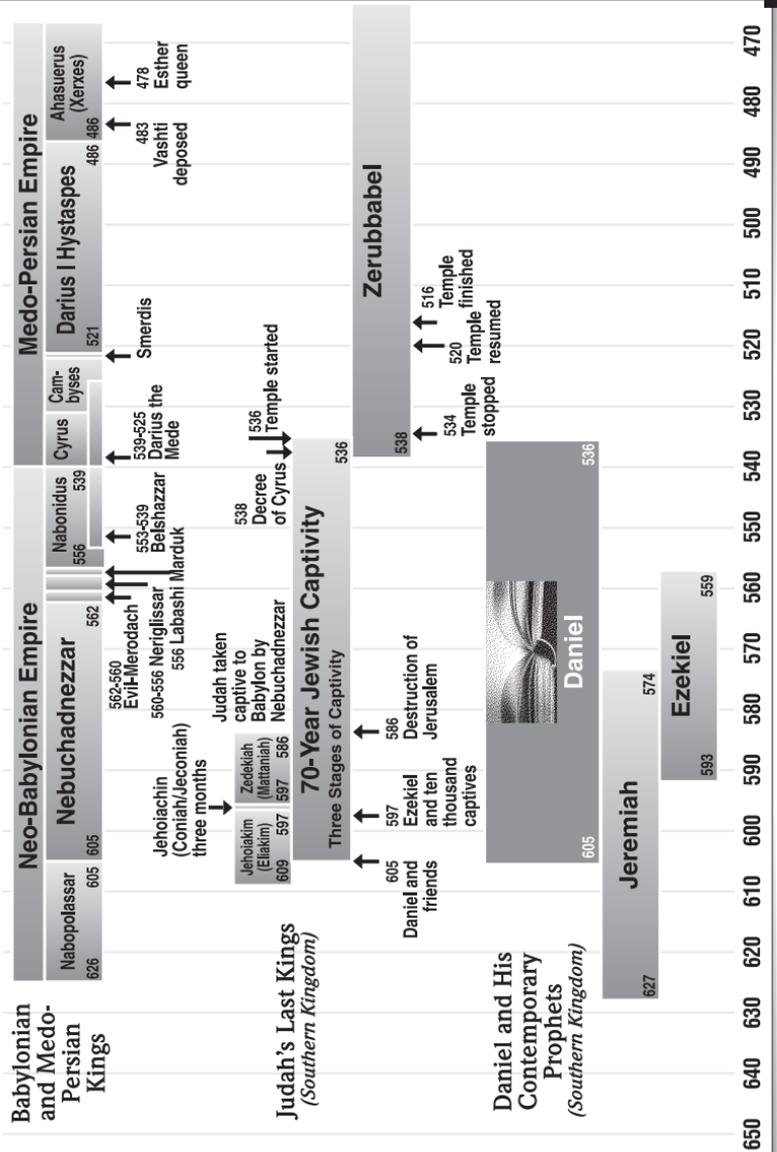
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DAY FOUR

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Read Daniel 1 again. Observe carefully all the chapter tells you about Daniel by noting where you marked his name as a key word yesterday. In your notebook, set aside several pages to record what you learn about Daniel as you work through this book. You could call the list PROFILE ON DANIEL. Now, list what you see about him from this chapter. Remember to note the chapter and verse reference to each insight as you move through the book. For example, your list might look something like the one on page 20.

# THE RULERS AND PROPHETS OF DANIEL'S TIME



## PROFILE ON DANIEL

1. taken captive when Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem (1:1-6)
2. from Judah—of the sons of Judah (1:6)
3. selected to enter the king of Babylon's personal service (1:5)

Remember, Daniel was called a “man of high esteem.” The English transliteration of the Hebrew word for esteem is *chamudah*,\* which literally means “desirable” or “precious.” Keep this in mind as you study Daniel's life. Look for things which caused him to be recognized as a man who was precious to God. If you, too, desire to be a man or a woman of high esteem in God's eyes, Daniel is your model!


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 DAY FIVE

One goal of this study is to learn about God's character and ways. Therefore, read Daniel 1 again. (You're really going to know this chapter, aren't you!) As you read today, carefully observe every reference to God you marked two days ago. If you see any references you missed, mark them.

You have begun a list of all you are learning on Daniel; now begin a list on all you'll learn about God. Be sure to leave several pages in your notebook for your list, and remember to note the chapter and verse for each insight.

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\* From time to time we will look at the definition of a word in Hebrew. Since the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, sometimes it is helpful to go back to the Hebrew to see the original meaning of the word. We will always use the English transliteration of the Hebrew alphabet—that is, the equivalent English letters according to pronunciation. There are many study tools to help you if you like to do this type of digging. One excellent book that will teach you how to do this type of in-depth study is *How to Study Your Bible* (Harvest House Publishers).

From what you learn today by compiling your list, answer the question, “Does God change?” How can the insights you are gaining help you live your life day in and day out? Think about it! If you find any LFLs—Lessons for Life—record them in your notebook (and in the margin of your Bible if you want). You may want to refer back to “How to Get Started” to refresh your memory on LFLs.

As I read through the Old Testament and see something that God does, I put a triangle in the margin and color it yellow. Then, beside the triangle, I write down what God did. For example, next to Daniel 1:2, I would print:  $\Delta$  “God delivers kings into the hands of an enemy.” If you make notes like this as you read through your Bible, you’ll have a permanent record of what God is like and of what He is able to do. You may not always understand the action, but you’ll have it written down for a future time.\*

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DAY SIX

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Today you need to read—you guessed it—Daniel 1 one last time.

When you finish your study today, record the theme of Daniel 1 on the DANIEL AT A GLANCE chart on page 126. (If someone asked you what Daniel 1 is about, what would you say? That’s the theme! Once you discern the theme, reduce the thought to as few words as possible using words the Bible uses.)

Now think about all you’ve learned this week—just from observing the text! What do you see from Daniel’s life that can be an example to you? Stop and think about it.

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\* If the margins in your Bible aren’t wide enough, you might want to pray about getting a *New Inductive Study Bible*. It’s available in the NAS version at your local Christian bookstore.

How would you have responded if you were in Daniel's position?

What do you learn about God from this first chapter? How can what you observe be applied to your life?

Discuss what you've learned with the Lord in prayer. You might want to write out your prayer in your notebook.


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 DAY SEVEN  


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Store in your heart: Daniel 1:8.  
Read and discuss: Daniel 1.

*QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY*

- ☞ What do you learn from Daniel 1 about the timing of the events? Or, to put it another way, “What is the historical setting of the book of Daniel?” Discuss what you learned from your study this week as you observed the text and looked at the chart *THE RULERS AND PROPHETS OF DANIEL’S TIME*.
- ☞ How does understanding the historical setting of Daniel help you appreciate Daniel’s situation?
- ☞ What do you learn about Daniel from this chapter?
  - a. Discuss the insights on your Daniel list.
  - b. What do you see in Daniel’s life that you can apply to your own? What does he do that you need to be doing? Is there an attitude in him that you need to have?
  - c. What do you learn about Daniel that explains why one of God’s angels later refers to him as a “man of high esteem”?

- ☞ What do you learn about God from this chapter?
  - a. In relation to what happened to the king of Judah
  - b. In relation to Daniel
- ☞ From what you just discussed, what do you conclude?
- ☞ Do you think God is able to do the same things today?

### *THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*

Daniel found himself taken captive by a man who was a heathen—a man who didn't know God and who had no respect for the holy vessels of God. He found himself a hostage in a strange land. And whatever this 15-year-old had dreamed his future would hold, it was shattered. He was no longer free. He was held captive by a man who did not care personally for him or for his God. And, since Daniel was chosen to serve in the king's court, it is likely that he was made a eunuch (was castrated).

Yet Daniel did not become bitter or question his God; he continued to faithfully serve God. He did not break God's laws and defile himself with the king's choice food and wine. It seems that only three of the other captives stood with him in that decision.

Daniel was firm in his faith, but never disrespectful to those who did not share his faith, to those who ruled over him. And the God who was watching took notice and moved on his behalf.

O Beloved, may we be "Daniels" for the Lord. No matter the circumstances of our lives, may we be faithful to the One who is over every circumstance—the One who is rightly called the Most High God.