



Daniel:

The Key to Victorious Living in a Hostile Culture

Pastor Michael Cranford

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Schedule

February 16

Introduction

February 23

Daniel 1

March 2

March 9

March 16

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WORKBOOK

DISCOVERING

DAN

FINDING OUR
PROPHETIC PLAN

AMIR
& DR.

FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE BESTSELLER
REVEALING REVELATION

DISCOVERING

DANIEL

FINDING OUR HOPE IN GOD'S
PROPHETIC PLAN AMID GLOBAL CHAOS

AMIR TSARFATI
WITH DR. RICK YOHN



Introduction: Why this Bible study matters to you!

For the eyes of the LORD roam throughout the earth, so that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. (2 Chron 16:9; NASB)



Introduction: Why this Bible study matters to you!

1) The church is largely irrelevant and ineffective in today's world because it is not very different from the world (the culture) it exists in. Because it isn't different it lacks a source of power or a prophetic stance to challenge what's wrong with today's world.

Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

“Come out of her, my people,
so that you will not share in her sins,
so that you will not receive any of her plagues;
for her sins are piled up to heaven,
and God has remembered her crimes.” (Rev 18:4-5)

Introduction: Why this Bible study matters to you!

2) Christians are generally weak, disconnected from the Spirit, and distracted because they have aligned their hearts to something other than God. God empowers those who are disconnected from those aspects of culture that are opposed to his nature and values. He doesn't empower those who internalize and live out the values of secular culture.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

(Rom 12:1-2)

Introduction: Why this Bible study matters to you!

3) Living without the power of the Spirit has left most people (and many Christians) with lives that are empty (prone to addiction and overstimulation), aimless (accomplish little for the kingdom), and are consumed by the same passions and anxieties that characterize secular (merely biological) existence.

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. (Eph 4:17-

19)

REPORT | MARCH 15, 2024

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8 in 10 Americans Say Religion Is Losing Influence in Public Life

Few see Biden or Trump as especially religious

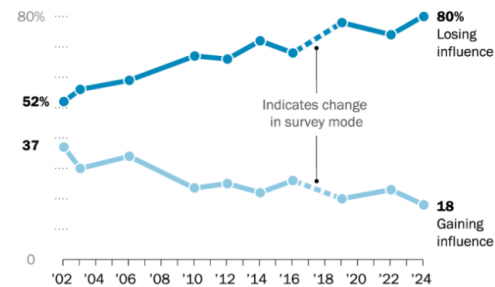
How we did this

A new Pew Research Center survey finds that 80% of U.S. adults say religion's role in American life is shrinking – a percentage that's as high as it's ever been in our surveys.

Most Americans who say religion's influence is shrinking are not happy about it. Overall, 49% of U.S. adults say both that religion is losing influence *and* that this is a bad thing. An additional 8% of U.S. adults think religion's influence is growing and that this is a good thing.

Share of Americans who say religion's influence is declining is as high as it's ever been

% of U.S. adults who say religion is ___ in American life



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. Dotted line indicates a change in survey mode between 2016 and 2019. Data from 2019 and after comes from Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (ATP); 2016 and earlier used telephone surveys. The wording of the question on the telephone surveys was slightly different than on the ATP. Refer to the Topline for details.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 13-25, 2024.
 "8 in 10 Americans Say Religion Is Losing Influence in Public Life"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Together, a combined 57% of U.S. adults – a clear majority – express a positive view of religion's influence on American life.

REPORT MATERIALS

- Report PDF
- Topline

TABLE OF CONTENTS

8 in 10 Americans Say Religion Is Losing Influence in Public Life

- Moral and religious qualities in a president
- Views of Biden, Trump and their religious engagement
- Views on trying to control religious values in the government and schools
- Christianity's place in politics, and Christian nationalism

- Religion's role in public life
- U.S. presidential candidates and their religious engagement
- Christianity's place in politics, and 'Christian nationalism'

Acknowledgments

Methodology



Daniel

1) Who was he? How can we describe his life in a nutshell?

While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill— while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed.” (Dan 9:20-23)



Daniel

2) What is the structure of the book? Why is this book so unique?

Hebrew Dan 1-2:4a, 8:1-12:13

Aramaic Dan 2:4b – 7:28



Daniel

3) Why have some people tried to criticize and dispute the historical claims of this book?

If you presuppose that prophecy is impossible, then you must conclude that it was written after the events happened.



Daniel

In support of traditional date and authorship:

a) Jesus believed in traditional authorship. Matt 24:15

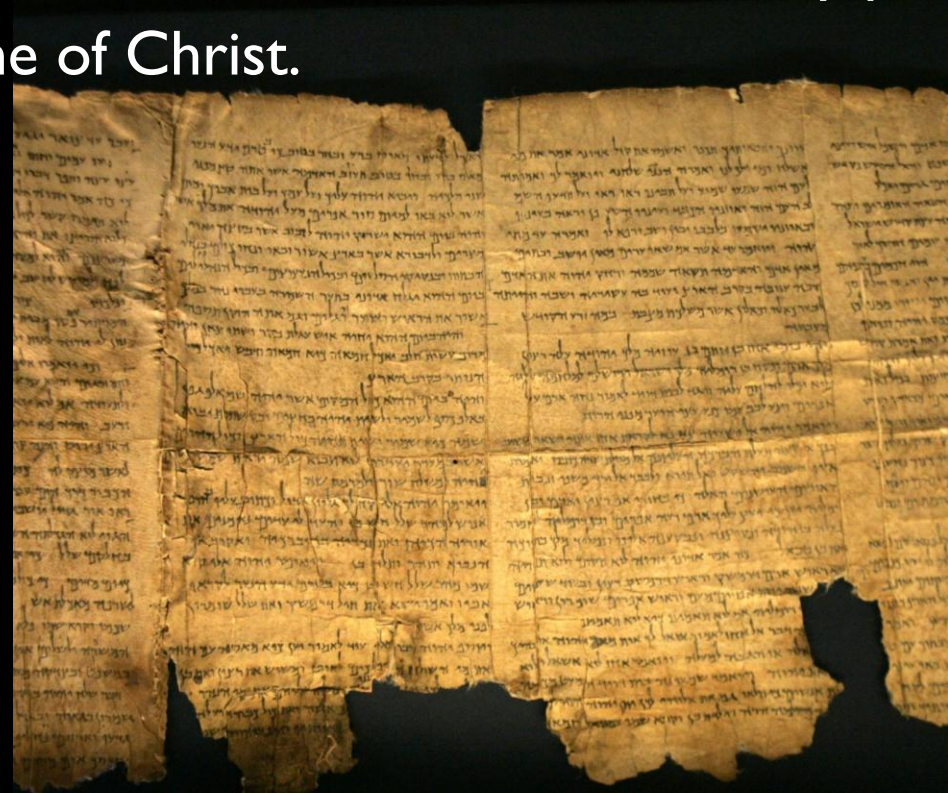
“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” (Matt 24:15-16)



Daniel

In support of traditional date and authorship:

b) The Dead Sea Scrolls contained fragments of Daniel, which essentially proves it was written many centuries before the time of Christ.



Daniel

In support of traditional date and authorship:

- c) There are Persian “loanwords” (Old Persian) that have been shown archeologically to have been in use in the 6th century B.C.
- d) The book was accepted in the Jewish canon without dispute.



Daniel

In support of traditional date and authorship:

e) Ezekiel mentions Daniel, and the book of Ezekiel is universally accepted as originating long before the second century B.C. (See Ezek 14:13-14, 20; 28:3).

“Son of man, if a country sins against me by being unfaithful and I stretch out my hand against it to cut off its food supply and send famine upon it and kill its people and their animals, even if these three men—Noah, Daniel and Job—were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign LORD.” (Ezek 14:13-14)



Daniel

f) Daniel's visions clearly predict the fall of the Babylonian empire, followed by the Medo-Persian empire, then the Greek empire. This is the time frame of late authorship. But it goes on to predict the Roman empire as a fourth world empire. Even if it were written during the time of the Greek empire, it accurately predicts another empire (Rome) that arose after the time of late authorship.

