

Heaven Rules

SEEING GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

LISTENER GUIDE



INTRODUCTION: HOW TO USE THIS LISTENER GUIDE

Seeing your life and world through the lens of Heaven's rule can give you renewed hope and perspective. In this audio series, Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth will take you to the book of Daniel, where God's sovereignty is gloriously displayed on every page. Saturating your heart in the truth of who God is will strengthen your faith and give you courage to press forward: *Heaven rules!*

You may be facing a long list of difficult challenges. In the midst of the struggle, do you believe that God can be trusted? Do you believe that Heaven really does rule?

There's never been a better time to be reminded—Heaven rules! Heaven rules over world powers and weather patterns, over big-picture issues and personal challenges. *Heaven rules.*

Tips for Using This Guide

Throughout this series, Nancy will be teaching through the book of Daniel, focusing on one key theme: Heaven rules. Print out this listener guide and fill in the blanks as you listen to each program. An answer key is provided to allow you to check your work as you go.

To make the most of your study, follow along in your own Bible. As you begin listening, you may want to take time to read through the whole book of Daniel in one or two sittings. As Nancy focuses on a particular chapter, spend time reading through that passage on your own.

Throughout the series, Nancy will encourage you to make notes of these “God sightings.” (She recommends jotting “HR” in the margins!)

Ask yourself:

- How do I see the sovereignty of God in this passage?
- How do I see that Heaven rules in the lives of God’s people?
- How do I see that Heaven rules in the lives of people who don’t believe in God?
- How do I see that Heaven rules in the mega issues of the world?
- How do I see that Heaven rules in the micro details of our lives?

May you come to see and know God more clearly as you listen to this series—and may the assurance that Heaven rules give you confidence and hope as you look to Him.

A TIMELESS AND TIMELY MESSAGE

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

In these two words we find a world of comfort, help, hope, encouragement, perspective, and sometimes even, when we need it, fear. This is a theme that we see woven all the way through Scripture, from cover to cover. What are the two words? _____

Where does this phrase actually appear in the Bible? _____

Daniel 1:1 refers to _____ of Babylon. He's one of the main characters in this story.

In the book of Daniel, God (the God of Israel) is repeatedly referred to as the _____ or the _____.

Throughout the book of Daniel we're going to see how God orchestrated and used various circumstances and various conflicts, various hard places that God's people faced. God used these. God orchestrated them.

God used these circumstances as a showdown to demonstrate His _____ and His _____ over His enemies and to let everyone—believers and nonbelievers alike—know that _____.

Three of the most common Hebrew names for God are found in the book of Daniel.

- The word "_____" is the Hebrew word *Elohim*.
- Then you see the Hebrew name _____. In our Bibles it's translated LORD, large L with O-R-D in small caps.
- Then you'll see the word Lord with lowercase o-r-d. That's the word in Hebrew _____, the Lord.

This is just another way of saying that God rules: when we say _____, we mean God rules.

There will never, ever be a time in time or eternity when God will not be God, when He will not be _____, when He will not be in _____, when He will not be _____ over every detail of our lives.

Proverbs 18:10 reminds us, "The _____ of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are protected."

WHEN YOU NEED COURAGE (DANIEL 1)

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

“In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and laid siege to it.” I want you to notice in this passage that **there are always _____ perspectives.**

These are the things you can write in the history books. That’s one perspective. But then there’s also always _____ vantage point. This is what only God sees and what God knows.

From the perspective of the Jews, it looked like it was _____ who was coming in and doing this. And, in fact, he was, but he wasn’t the ultimate cause. He was just the _____ that God used to accomplish His purposes in the people of Judah. God did it.

Look at verse 6:

Among them, from the _____, were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The chief eunuch gave them names; he gave the name Belteshazzar to _____, Shadrach to Hananiah, Meshach to Mishael, and Abednego to Azariah.

These four men, as we’ll see throughout the book of Daniel, stood out for their _____ to their heritage and for their _____ to stay true to their God—even when that required them to take a stand against the edicts of the king of Babylon.

The _____ of God is what goes before us. It makes _____ for what lies ahead.

You can count on God to give you what you need for opportunities and circumstances and challenges that lie ahead that you can’t even begin to see at this moment—but God sees it. God knows it.

When you need to make decisions and you need to make hard choices, God is going to give you—He has given you—the _____ and the _____ you need and that you will need in those moments.

Daniel and his friends were invincible for as long as God wanted to keep them here on earth and use them.

- It was God who endowed Daniel and his friends with superior _____, _____, and _____.
- It was God who raised them up to positions of _____—not for their own sakes, not so they would have bragging rights, but as part of the greater story that God was writing in the lives of His people, in the lives of these kings under whom Daniel served, and in world events yet to come. Heaven rules.

WHEN YOU NEED WISDOM (DANIEL 2)

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

God is over everything! God is over _____. God is over _____ or inability to sleep. So when you can't sleep at night, just remember, Heaven rules. God is in charge of all of this.

Because of this, the king became violently angry and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. The decree was issued that the wise men were to be executed, and they searched for Daniel and his friends, to execute them. (vv. 12–13)

But Daniel had something that these so-called wise men did not have. Look at verse 14. "Then Daniel responded with _____ and _____." Where did he get that? From God. God gave him wisdom; God gave him understanding.

Notice what Daniel didn't do:

- He didn't _____.
- He didn't wring his hands.
- He didn't stage a protest or plot a coup to overthrow the king.
- He displays in this passage a _____ that we know was grounded in his understanding that—what? _____.

He (Daniel) didn't rely on his own gifts; he relied on the help of his friends and his God. He knew that he did not have, on his own, the wisdom or the ability to handle this; that they needed God. So what did they do? They _____.

That's what you do when you need God and you know you need God; you pray. When you know you can't handle this on your own, you pray.

Daniel gives God all the _____ because God deserves all the _____.

God gives wisdom to His people who _____. We're dependent on Him for the wisdom and understanding to reveal mysteries that are too great for us.

People who believe that Heaven rules are _____ people. They don't take credit for things that God deserves credit for.

We're going to see this theme of _____ and _____ weaving its way through the book of Daniel.

Who lifts people up? God does. Nebuchadnezzar was the one you can see in the visible realm, but in the unseen, eternal realm it was God who was lifting Daniel up for such a time as this.

WHEN YOUR FAITH IS TESTED (DANIEL 3)

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

History tells us that Nebuchadnezzar took seriously any challenges to his sovereign rule, and he dealt with them harshly. This is a battle for _____, which, by the way, is something you see all through Scripture, from the first pages of Genesis to the end of the book of Revelation.

The bent of fallen humanity will always be to _____ man and to _____ God.

In God's Word we're commanded to be good citizens of whatever country we call home. But we have to remember that our ultimate _____ is not here on this earth.

Verse 18:

"Even if He does not _____ us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up."

They knew their God was able to rescue them; they didn't know if He would choose to do so, but they were willing to leave their fate in God's hands.

This was a statement of _____ to their God. This was a statement of faith that _____.

God's testing some of us today in little things, and what we do with those tests—how we _____ God, how we refuse to _____, how we _____ Him—is paving a way for how we will obey Him when the bigger tests come later on.

The Most High God, who is the main character of the book of Daniel, came down to earth to _____ His servants. Not only that, He went into the fire _____ them.

God has not promised to deliver us from trials. He doesn't always rescue His servants from physical danger or death.

God hasn't promised to deliver us _____ trials, but He has promised to sustain and deliver us _____ trials. God Himself goes with us into and through our trials.

- Are people seeing such an _____ of our trust and faith in God?
- Are they seeing God _____ His people?
- Are they seeing His people _____ and _____ and _____ Him above all other gods of this earth?
- Are we setting the stage for God to be _____, for His power to be demonstrated?

WHEN YOU NEED A RIGHT-SIZED VIEW OF GOD (DANIEL 4)

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

It's one thing to _____ God; it's one thing to see evidence of His existence and His power and to be impressed with Him. But it's a whole other thing to _____ God as the God and King of your life.

It's the process of _____ that transforms us from being worshipers of ourselves to becoming worshipers of God.

The goal of this dream, the goal of God intervening in Nebuchadnezzar's life, was that Nebuchadnezzar and every person on earth for all time would know that Heaven rules, that every earthly kingdom is subject to His authority, and that God determines who rules nations.

_____ **makes us blind to our own condition. It makes us blind to how God's Word applies to us.**

Heaven rules whether we _____ it or not.

Our God is a holy _____. That thought should be terrifying to people who want to live unholy lives. But our God is also a merciful, restoring _____, and that should bring such hope, peace, mercy, and grace to those who put their trust in Him.

Daniel made clear that the only path to restoration was _____.

God waits. God is _____. God is patient with us. God is patient with our world. God is patient with unbelievers. God is patient with the proud. He doesn't cut down that tree, in many cases, right away. Why? **Because He is waiting for us to come to repentance.**

But here's the thing: He will not wait forever.

And if we refuse to humble ourselves under His mighty hand, we will force Him to humble us. _____ always gets the final word.

You see, an _____ view of self and a _____ view of God are devastating to our spiritual and mental health. But a _____ view of God lifts our eyes to heaven, and a _____ view of self can lead to restored mental health and flourishing.

First Peter 5 says, "God resists the _____ but He gives grace to the _____. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time" (vv. 5-6).

WHEN YOU NEED TO HUMBLE YOURSELF (DANIEL 5)

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

King Nebuchadnezzar was succeeded by another Babylonian king named _____.

God _____ the unrepentant wicked and God _____ those who believe in Him and turn from their sin.

Proverbs 2 tells us, "The LORD gives _____; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He stores up success for the upright" (vv. 6–7).

The world's finest wisdom will always be limited and insufficient for the world's problems. Those of us who know the God of heaven need to be prepared when called upon to speak His wisdom into the situation.

Then Daniel answered the king, "You may keep your gifts and give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription for the king and make the interpretation known to him." (v. 17)

There's a _____, _____ confidence there.

If you exalt yourself, God will _____ you. It is a truism. It's true in all ages, in all seasons, for all people. You lift yourself up, God will put you down. That's what happened to Nebuchadnezzar.

Failing to _____ God is at the heart of my sin; that's at the heart of your sin; that's at the heart of all sin.

- "This is the interpretation of the message: 'Mene' means that God has _____ the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end" (v. 26).
- "'Tekel' means that you have been weighed on the balance and found _____" (v. 27).
- "'Peres' means that your kingdom has been _____ and given to the Medes and Persians" (v. 28).

That's the _____ of a servant of God: to help people see how God's Word applies to them and their lives and their situations.

That very night Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans was killed, and _____ the Mede received the kingdom at the age of sixty-two. (v. 30)

Heaven rules, and every _____ ruler and kingdom will fail and will fall when the Most High God says it's time, when He decrees it to be so.

WHEN YOU NEED TO BE RESCUED (DANIEL 6)

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

We see throughout this book that Daniel is placed by God in a position of great _____ and _____.

God's _____ are taking on God's _____. They want to attempt to force him to deny his faith or die. And these officials were sure that in signing this edict the king was signing Daniel's death warrant.

When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went into his house. The windows in its upstairs room opened toward Jerusalem, and _____ times a day he got down on his knees, _____, and gave _____ to his God, just as he had done before. (v. 10)

You see Daniel's prayer life throughout the book of Daniel.

- Here we see he had _____, _____ prayer.
- It was _____ prayer; it was in his house.
- It was _____ prayer. He wasn't afraid for others to know that he was praying.
- It was _____ prayer. He faced toward Jerusalem.
- It was _____ prayer, three times a day.
- It was _____ prayer. He got down on his knees—posture of humility.
- It was _____ prayer. We'll see this in verse 11; he could not live without making requests to his God.
- In addition to making requests, he gave _____ to God.

If we really believe that Heaven rules, we will be free from the _____. We will be able to obey our God no matter what the laws or the culture may say.

Emmanuel God is _____ us, in the king's palace, in the fiery furnace, in the lions' den.

Sometimes our greatest _____ to the reality and the power of God is when we suffer afflictions and trials and others see us _____ our God and not being swallowed up or overcome by the ordeal.

Psalm 34:19 says, "One who is righteous has many adversities, but the LORD _____ him from them all. He protects all his bones; not one of them is broken. Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the _____ will be punished."

You can trust God to _____ your story, and you can be assured that in the end He will _____ your story.

WHEN YOU ARE DISCOURAGED (DANIEL 7)

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Earthly rulers have no power that is not granted to them from above. Regardless of what is taking place on earth, you have to keep recalibrating and remembering that the ultimate reality is not that kings rule, but that _____.

In the first half of the book of Daniel, who has dreams that Daniel interprets? _____

In the second half of the book, who has dreams an angel interprets? _____

In Daniel 7, Daniel is given a panoramic view of human history: _____, _____, and _____.

The Four Beasts correspond to the four parts of the great statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2:

1. The first beast is the _____ empire.
2. The second beast represents the _____ empire.
3. The third beast is the _____ empire and the conquest of _____ the Great.
4. The fourth beast is the _____ empire.

The kings are powerful, but their power is given to them by _____. These kingdoms, powerful as they are, fierce as they are, vast as they are, are no match for _____.

Thus far, everything Daniel has seen has been here on earth. In verse 9, the scene changes. What is the new setting? _____

In verses 9–11, what are some of the things that the fire of God symbolizes? _____

In Daniel 7:14, the theme of this book is repeated: "His _____ is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his _____ is one that will not be _____."

We know the end of the story. But this victory is yet future. Between now and then, a battle will rage between which two kingdoms? _____

In Daniel 7:28, how did Daniel feel when he considered what kind of suffering lay ahead? _____

Daniel's visions were preserved in Scripture so that we might see God's perspective, God's purposes, and God's eternal plans. **God _____, _____ rules, and we will reign and rule with Him.** That's the end of the story, and it's worth waiting for.

WHEN YOU'RE OVERWHELMED BY TROUBLE (DANIEL 8)

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Two years after the vision of Daniel 7, Daniel had a second vision. How many years later would these prophetic events take place? _____

Most commentators believe that the little horn in Daniel 8:9–11 refers to the Hellenistic or Greek King named Antiochus Epiphanes. He called himself “Theos Epiphanes,” which means “_____.”

What is Antiochus Epiphanes known historically for doing? _____

The reign of terror by Antiochus Epiphanes was God's way of _____ His people for their sin and their rebellion against Him.

God uses kings and rulers and laws and edicts—whatever means are necessary—to get our attention and to bring us as His people to a place of _____ and _____.

God knows exactly how long each king, each ruler, and each empire will reign. Every event in heaven and every event on earth operates on God's timetable, not man's.

The description that begins in verse 23 has two kinds of fulfillment:

- It has a near fulfillment, which is about the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes.
- It has a far fulfillment, which is about the _____.

In verse 25, what will be the outcome of the evil ruler? _____

This detailed prophecy reminds us that God not only knows what's going to happen in the future, God _____ what is going to happen in the future.

After God revealed the vision to Daniel, what did he do? He says in verse 27, “Then I got up and went about _____.”

We have been placed here by God in this time and in this place and we are to serve wherever He has put us, while at the same time keeping our hearts firmly planted in His eternal kingdom, living with _____.

Why do we have hope? _____

WHEN YOU NEED ENDURANCE THROUGH DIFFICULTIES (DANIEL 9)

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

In chapter 9, we see that Daniel is a man of _____.

While everyone else's attention was turned toward Darius, what were Daniel's eyes fixed on?

Where did Daniel get perspective about what was going on in the world?

- Not from social media
- Not from cable news
- But from reading _____

Daniel's study of Scripture led him to his knees. **Let our study of God's Word move us to _____, and let our prayers be grounded in _____.**

What happens when we see the greatness, the grace, and the goodness of God? _____

Daniel didn't excuse. He didn't defend. He just humbly confessed. In Daniel 9:5 he says, "We have _____, done _____, acted _____, and turned away from your commands and ordinances."

How does God answer Daniel's prayer? In verse 24, God says He will:

- _____ to sin
- _____ for iniquity
- Bring in _____

God promised to send an _____ to earth, "Messiah, the Prince."

In verse 26, this Messiah would be "cut off." What is this a reference to? _____

Daniel prayed for God to forgive and intervene on behalf of His people, and the answer was that God had heard Daniel's prayer and would do as Daniel had asked . . . on His own timetable.

We need to endure through the difficulties, clinging in faith to Him who has promised that one day all things on this earth will be redeemed, all prayers will be answered, and all things will be made _____.

WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE WHAT GOD IS DOING (DANIEL 10)

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

When we say Heaven rules, we mean _____ rules. God is in charge. His hand is always at work in the _____ realm in the circumstances that we see in this _____ realm.

Daniel 10:1 says that the message revealed to Daniel "was _____ and was about a great _____."

Scripture doesn't gloss over the reality that as long as we live in a sinful, broken world, we will be in a _____.

Daniel spent three weeks in mourning and in fervent prayer. Those three weeks were a prelude to a great vision that God wanted to give him of

- God's _____
- God's _____
- God's _____

How did Daniel respond when he experienced the presence of the majesty and glory of God? _____

If the sight of Christ and His glory had this kind of effect on Daniel, what do you think it would be like if we were to truly behold the glory of the risen, reigning Christ? One day, we will!

The presence of God strikes terror in finite, sinful men; but for those of us who are in Christ, the presence of God also speaks _____ to us. Grace frees us from _____.

Daniel 10:12: "'Don't be afraid, Daniel,' he said to me, 'for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your prayers were _____. I have come because of your _____.'"

The forces of evil are powerful, and sometimes they create hurdles and difficulties and delays for God's people, but these evil beings are all _____. They cannot stop His work from _____."

In times of trouble or conflict, what does God arm His servants with? _____

We are not left to battle alone here on this earth. God sends His holy _____ to support and strengthen His saints in the battle.

2 Corinthians 4:18: "So we do not focus on what is _____, but on what is _____. For what is seen is _____, but what is unseen is _____."

God is doing His eternal work even when we don't see it. When we fix our eyes on Jesus and trust Him, we won't be moved.

THE DIFFERENCE IT MAKES

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

There's a two-word answer for every two-word worry: _____.

If God's people are to be strong and courageous and pure, standing for God against the rising tide of evil, they will have to do two things. Matthew 26:41 (NIV) says, "_____ and _____ so that you will not fall into temptation."

In order to do what God had put him on this earth to do, Daniel needed to get on his knees and _____.

- He did this using his pattern of _____ times a day.
- He did it in times of _____.
- He did it for _____ periods of time.

We have the book of Daniel in part because Daniel prayed and then captured what God told him. His prayers were not just for his people and his day. Our prayers may also be for a day we will not live to see. But God is always at work, hearing and sending answers to our prayers.

Good _____ matters. It matters that we know God and know what He is like. We need to counsel our hearts with truth such as:

- "Anything that makes me need God is a _____."
- "God is on His _____. Heaven rules."

In Matthew 10:28, Jesus says, "_____ those who kill the body but are not able to kill the _____. Rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

For those who belong to God, there is eternal _____ in Christ. He is our refuge.

There's freedom in realizing: "It's not up to _____. I am not _____. I am not in charge. I can't change people or circumstances, but I can walk with God and live in peace. Even when I cannot see the outcome, I can trust that God is in _____."

The book of Daniel reminds us that kings come and go. Kingdoms come and go. They are not _____. But God is.

In the big things and little things we need to develop an _____ to trust God. He knows what He is doing.

The fact that Heaven rules doesn't mean you don't ever feel the terror or the trembling—but Daniel was tethered to the goodness of God, the greatness of God, the glory of God, the promises of God, and the Word of Truth. He couldn't hold it in his hands, but we can.

WHEN LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE (DANIEL 11)

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Chapters 10–12 form a unit in the book of Daniel. How old is Daniel in these chapters? _____

Who is speaking to Daniel in Daniel 10:20–12:4? _____

Daniel 11 describes a time of great tribulation for the nation of Israel. These details regarding the rise and the fall of Gentile world powers were known and decreed by the _____ before they ever happened.

The future is as _____ to God as if it had already happened. It is all under His control.

After Alexander the Great's death, the Greek Empire was divided. Daniel 11–12 tracks two of those dynasties:

- The kings of the _____, who were the rulers of Syria (known as the Seleucids).
- The kings of the _____, who were the rulers of Egypt (known as the Ptolemies).

"North" and "South" were located in relation to what place? _____

Daniel 11:5–20 includes 200 years of wars between the two warring powers. During this period, whoever was in power controlled the _____.

Daniel 11:21–35 describes the rise of a new Seleucid king in the North, Antiochus IV Epiphanes. In Daniel 8, he was the little _____ in Daniel's dream. In 167 B.C. he ransacked _____.

In response to pressure and persecution, Daniel says in Daniel 11:32: "The people who know their God will _____ and _____."

Antiochus Epiphanes foreshadows another more vile ruler who is yet to come. Who is the ruler in vv. 36–45?

There is nothing new about the rise and fall of evil kings and kingdoms throughout history. This is always going to be the case until King _____ comes to establish His kingdom here on earth.

The prophecies in Daniel 11 were intended to give encouragement to the _____, God's covenant people who would be overrun by Gentile powers for a time.

This passage also gives hope to the people of God in every era who are oppressed and persecuted by God's enemies. God says to us what He said to Daniel: "Don't be afraid, you who are _____. Peace to you; be _____!"

As believers, a lot of times we don't feel strong. We need to remember that no earthly king, no matter how powerful, will endure forever. At the appointed time when Christ returns, all of the adversaries will meet their end . . . and Jesus will reign and rule forever.

WHEN WE KNOW THE END OF THE STORY (DANIEL 12)

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

In Daniel 12:1, who is Michael, the Great Prince, and what is he always connected with in Scripture? _____
_____. During the Great Tribulation, when the Antichrist rises
up, Michael will rise up to _____ God's people. *When the powers of evil arise, God does not leave His
people to fend for themselves.*

12:3 says, "Those who have _____ will _____ like the bright expanse of the heavens, and
those who lead many to righteousness, like the _____ forever and ever."

Philippians 2:15 says it this way: "So that you may be blameless and pure, _____ who
are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you _____ like _____ in the
world."

What does it mean to be *sakal*? _____

All history is moving toward a predetermined, ordained end. It will take place exactly when and how God
has ordered because _____.

The questions Daniel asks in verses 12:6 and 12:8 are the same questions we ask in distress:

- _____ will this last?
- How is this going to _____?

*It's not wrong to ask the questions, but at the end of the day, we have to be willing to trust the One, the only One,
who we know has answers to the questions. He is trustworthy.*

What do we do as we wait? The angel tells Daniel, "As for you, _____ to the
end" (12:13). We keep living as _____ servants of the Lord—all the way to the end of our lives.

After Daniel had served and labored faithfully, what promise was given to him? _____

This is similar to Revelation 14:13: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord ... they will _____ from
their labors."

This promise given to Daniel is for all of His people. You will be rewarded: every faithful deed, every time you
persevered in the hard places and through the tears, in all of the questions you trusted God with. Someday ...

- Faith will be _____.
- Prayer will be _____.
- And we will be with the Lord _____.

WHEN YOU NEED STABILITY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

The world in which Daniel lived was upside down—but that is nothing new. _____ is the individual and the collective default of the human race. The world will be upside down until what happens? _____

Daniel knew that the God he served was the true and supreme _____. Daniel was living for _____ and for the _____ that will never end.

Throughout the book of Daniel, we're reminded that Heaven rules:

- Daniel 4:3: "His kingdom is an _____ kingdom, and his dominion is from _____ to _____."
- Daniel 4:25–26: "the Most High is ruler over _____, and he gives them to anyone he wants. . . your kingdom will be restored to you [he said to King Nebuchadnezzar] as soon as you acknowledge that _____."
- Daniel 7:13–14: "And suddenly one like a _____ was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the _____ and was escorted before him. He was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, so that those of every people, nation, and language should _____. His dominion is an _____ dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will _____."

Do we live as if Heaven rules or earth rules? If we believe that Heaven rules . . .

- We will resolve to live as _____ of a holy God rather than _____ into the culture all around us.
- We will not _____ or _____ when it looks like the enemies of God are winning, when hard things happen, when our freedoms are threatened, or when comforts are removed.
- We will have _____. We won't give in to pressure to conform.
- We will be _____ people.
- We will be people of _____ vs. people who are perpetually outraged against the culture.
- We will be _____ people with a right view of God and ourselves.
- We won't feel we have to _____ the people or the circumstances around us.
- We will _____ faithfully wherever God puts us, even in a pagan environment.
- We will be _____ and _____ when our culture is chaotic and out of control.
- We will believe that God can _____ of the most proud, ungodly leader.
- We will see every _____ in our world and in our lives as an _____ for the impotence of the gods of this world to be exposed and for the greatness of God to be displayed.

WE WILL RISE UP

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Wherever we're serving God today, as hard as it may be, is not where we will be serving _____.
Our _____ as we serve here will be rewarded when we get to God's throne.

What gives us the ability to be hopeful people is that we are the _____ of God. We have hope.
There's _____ coming. Evil will not _____.

Daniel 12:3 reminds us, "Those who have insight will _____ like the bright expanse of the heavens."
The world cannot snuff out the light of true believers because it's the light of Christ!

When we are thrown into the fire, we are not alone. God has not promised to rescue us from the fire, but He
has promised to _____ us through it. Blessed is the one who _____. At the end of the story,
God will rescue us.

Psalm 34:19 says, "One who is _____ has many adversities, but the LORD _____ him
from them all."

Psalm 34:19 and Psalm 16:10 are prophecies. Who are they about? _____

By God's grace, do what He gives you grace and strength to do. Don't stop until the end.

- Then, in the end, you will _____.
- Then you will _____.
- Then you will be _____.

Don't expect the _____ now. If you are doing what God has given you to do in this season, it does
matter. In His time, and at the end, you will receive the allotted _____ for faithfulness.

The first and last verse of Daniel 12 form a bookend. What word appears at the beginning and at the end of
the chapter? _____

*The day will come when we, as the people of God, will rise. We will stand—not in our own strength but as testi-
monies to the power of Christ, who says, "Receive the inheritance prepared for you by your Father from eternity
past." Amen.*



ANSWER KEYS



A TIMELESS AND TIMELY MESSAGE — ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

In these two words we find a world of comfort, help, hope, encouragement, perspective, and sometimes even, when we need it, fear. This is a theme that we see woven all the way through Scripture, from cover to cover. What are the two words? Heaven Rules

Where does this phrase actually appear in the Bible? Daniel 4:26

Daniel 1:1 refers to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. He's one of the main characters in this story.

In the book of Daniel, God (the God of Israel) is repeatedly referred to as the Most High God or the Most High.

Throughout the book of Daniel we're going to see how God orchestrated and used various circumstances and various conflicts, various hard places that God's people faced. God used these. God orchestrated them.

God used these circumstances as a showdown to demonstrate His greatness and His power over His enemies and to let everyone—believers and nonbelievers alike—know that Heaven rules.

Three of the most common Hebrew names for God are found in the book of Daniel.

- The word "God" is the Hebrew word *Elohim*.
- Then you see the Hebrew name Jehovah. In our Bibles it's translated LORD, large L with O-R-D in small caps.
- Then you'll see the word Lord with lowercase o-r-d. That's the word in Hebrew Adonai, the Lord.

This is just another way of saying that God rules: when we say Heaven rules, we mean God rules.

There will never, ever be a time in time or eternity when God will not be God, when He will not be present, when He will not be in control, when He will not be sovereign over every detail of our lives.

Proverbs 18:10 reminds us, "The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are protected."

WHEN YOU NEED COURAGE (DANIEL 1) — ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

“In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and laid siege to it.” I want you to notice in this passage that **there are always two perspectives.**

These are the things you can write in the history books. That’s one perspective. But then there’s also always heaven’s vantage point. This is what only God sees and what God knows.

From the perspective of the Jews, it looked like it was Nebuchadnezzar who was coming in and doing this. And, in fact, he was, but he wasn’t the ultimate cause. He was just the instrument that God used to accomplish His purposes in the people of Judah. God did it.

Look at verse 6:

Among them, from the Judahites, were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The chief eunuch gave them names; he gave the name Belteshazzar to Daniel, Shadrach to Hananiah, Meshach to Mishael, and Abednego to Azariah.

These four men, as we’ll see throughout the book of Daniel, stood out for their loyalty to their heritage and for their courage to stay true to their God—even when that required them to take a stand against the edicts of the king of Babylon.

The providence of God is what goes before us. It makes provision for what lies ahead.

You can count on God to give you what you need for opportunities and circumstances and challenges that lie ahead that you can’t even begin to see at this moment—but God sees it. God knows it.

When you need to make decisions and you need to make hard choices, God is going to give you—He has given you—the gifts and the wisdom you need and that you will need in those moments.

Daniel and his friends were invincible for as long as God wanted to keep them here on earth and use them.

- It was God who endowed Daniel and his friends with superior knowledge, understanding, and abilities.
- It was God who raised them up to positions of influence—not for their own sakes, not so they would have bragging rights, but as part of the greater story that God was writing in the lives of His people, in the lives of these kings under whom Daniel served, and in world events yet to come. Heaven rules.

WHEN YOU NEED WISDOM (DANIEL 2) — ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

God is over everything! God is over dreams. God is over sleep or inability to sleep. So when you can't sleep at night, just remember, Heaven rules. God is in charge of all of this.

Because of this, the king became violently angry and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. The decree was issued that the wise men were to be executed, and they searched for Daniel and his friends, to execute them. (vv. 12–13)

But Daniel had something that these so-called wise men did not have. Look at verse 14. “Then Daniel responded with tact and discretion.” Where did he get that? From God. God gave him wisdom; God gave him understanding.

Notice what Daniel didn't do:

- He didn't panic.
- He didn't wring his hands.
- He didn't stage a protest or plot a coup to overthrow the king.
- He displays in this passage a quiet confidence that we know was grounded in his understanding that—what? Heaven rules.

He (Daniel) didn't rely on his own gifts; he relied on the help of his friends and his God. He knew that he did not have, on his own, the wisdom or the ability to handle this; that they needed God. So what did they do? They prayed.

That's what you do when you need God and you know you need God; you pray. When you know you can't handle this on your own, you pray.

Daniel gives God all the credit because God deserves all the credit.

God gives wisdom to His people who ask. We're dependent on Him for the wisdom and understanding to reveal mysteries that are too great for us.

People who believe that Heaven rules are humble people. They don't take credit for things that God deserves credit for.

We're going to see this theme of pride and humility weaving its way through the book of Daniel.

Who lifts people up? God does. Nebuchadnezzar was the one you can see in the visible realm, but in the unseen, eternal realm it was God who was lifting Daniel up for such a time as this.

WHEN YOUR FAITH IS TESTED (DANIEL 3) — ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

History tells us that Nebuchadnezzar took seriously any challenges to his sovereign rule, and he dealt with them harshly. This is a battle for worship, which, by the way, is something you see all through Scripture, from the first pages of Genesis to the end of the book of Revelation.

The bent of fallen humanity will always be to deify man and to diminish God.

In God's Word we're commanded to be good citizens of whatever country we call home. But we have to remember that our ultimate citizenship is not here on this earth.

Verse 18:

"Even if He does not rescue us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up."

They knew their God was able to rescue them; they didn't know if He would choose to do so, but they were willing to leave their fate in God's hands. This was a statement of submission to their God. This was a statement of faith that Heaven rules.

God's testing some of us today in little things, and what we do with those tests—how we obey God, how we refuse to compromise, how we honor Him—is paving a way for how we will obey Him when the bigger tests come later on.

The Most High God, who is the main character of the book of Daniel, came down to earth to rescue His servants. Not only that, He went into the fire with them.

God has not promised to deliver us from trials. He doesn't always rescue His servants from physical danger or death.

God hasn't promised to deliver us from trials, but He has promised to sustain and deliver us through trials. God Himself goes with us into and through our trials.

- Are people seeing such an evidence of our trust and faith in God?
- Are they seeing God deliver His people?
- Are they seeing His people trust and worship and serve Him above all other gods of this earth?
- Are we setting the stage for God to be glorified, for His power to be demonstrated?

WHEN YOU NEED A RIGHT-SIZED VIEW OF GOD (DANIEL 4) ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

It's one thing to know about God; it's one thing to see evidence of His existence and His power and to be impressed with Him. But it's a whole other thing to bow before God as the God and King of your life.

It's the process of humbling that transforms us from being worshipers of ourselves to becoming worshipers of God.

The goal of this dream, the goal of God intervening in Nebuchadnezzar's life, was that Nebuchadnezzar and every person on earth for all time would know that Heaven rules, that every earthly kingdom is subject to His authority, and that God determines who rules nations.

Pride makes us blind to our own condition. It makes us blind to how God's Word applies to us.

Heaven rules whether we acknowledge it or not.

Our God is a holy Judge. That thought should be terrifying to people who want to live unholy lives. But our God is also a merciful, restoring Savior, and that should bring such hope, peace, mercy, and grace to those who put their trust in Him.

Daniel made clear that the only path to restoration was repentance.

God waits. God is patient. God is patient with us. God is patient with our world. God is patient with unbelievers. God is patient with the proud. He doesn't cut down that tree, in many cases, right away. Why? **Because He is waiting for us to come to repentance.**

But here's the thing: He will not wait forever.

And if we refuse to humble ourselves under His mighty hand, we will force Him to humble us. Heaven always gets the final word.

You see, an exalted view of self and a small view of God are devastating to our spiritual and mental health. But a right-sized view of God lifts our eyes to heaven, and a right-sized view of self can lead to restored mental health and flourishing.

First Peter 5 says, "God resists the proud but He gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time" (vv. 5–6).

WHEN YOU NEED TO HUMBLE YOURSELF (DANIEL 5) — ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

King Nebuchadnezzar was succeeded by another Babylonian king named Belshazzar.

God judges the unrepentant wicked and saves those who believe in Him and turn from their sin.

Proverbs 2 tells us, “The LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He stores up success for the upright” (vv. 6–7).

The world’s finest wisdom will always be limited and insufficient for the world’s problems. Those of us who know the God of heaven need to be prepared when called upon to speak His wisdom into the situation.

Then Daniel answered the king, “You may keep your gifts and give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription for the king and make the interpretation known to him.” (v. 17)

There’s a quiet, humble confidence there.

If you exalt yourself, God will humble you. It is a truism. It’s true in all ages, in all seasons, for all people. You lift yourself up, God will put you down. That’s what happened to Nebuchadnezzar.

Failing to glorify God is at the heart of my sin; that’s at the heart of your sin; that’s at the heart of all sin.

- “This is the interpretation of the message: ‘Mene’ means that God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end” (v. 26).
- “‘Tekel’ means that you have been weighed on the balance and found deficient” (v. 27).
- “‘Peres’ means that your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians” (v. 28).

That’s the calling of a servant of God: to help people see how God’s Word applies to them and their lives and their situations.

That very night Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans was killed, and Darius the Mede received the kingdom at the age of sixty-two. (v. 30)

Heaven rules, and every earthly ruler and kingdom will fail and will fall when the Most High God says it’s time, when He decrees it to be so.

WHEN YOU NEED TO BE RESCUED (DANIEL 6) — ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

We see throughout this book that Daniel is placed by God in a position of great responsibility and leadership.

God's adversaries are taking on God's servant. They want to attempt to force him to deny his faith or die. And these officials were sure that in signing this edict the king was signing Daniel's death warrant.

When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went into his house. The windows in its upstairs room opened toward Jerusalem, and three times a day he got down on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before. (v. 10)

You see Daniel's prayer life throughout the book of Daniel.

- Here we see he had purposeful, intentional prayer.
- It was private prayer; it was in his house.
- It was bold prayer. He wasn't afraid for others to know that he was praying.
- It was directional prayer. He faced toward Jerusalem.
- It was regular prayer, three times a day.
- It was humble prayer. He got down on his knees—posture of humility.
- It was pleading prayer. We'll see this in verse 11; he could not live without making requests to his God.
- In addition to making requests, he gave thanks to God.

If we really believe that Heaven rules, we will be free from the fear of man. We will be able to obey our God no matter what the laws or the culture may say.

Emmanuel God is with us, in the king's palace, in the fiery furnace, in the lions' den.

Sometimes our greatest witness to the reality and the power of God is when we suffer afflictions and trials and others see us trusting our God and not being swallowed up or overcome by the ordeal.

Psalm 34:19 says, "One who is righteous has many adversities, but the LORD rescues him from them all. He protects all his bones; not one of them is broken. Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be punished."

You can trust God to write your story, and you can be assured that in the end He will right your story.

WHEN YOU ARE DISCOURAGED (DANIEL 7) — ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Earthly rulers have no power that is not granted to them from above. Regardless of what is taking place on earth, you have to keep recalibrating and remembering that the ultimate reality is not that kings rule, but that Heaven rules.

In the first half of the book of Daniel, who has dreams that Daniel interprets? The king

In the second half of the book, who has dreams an angel interprets? Daniel

In Daniel 7, Daniel is given a panoramic view of human history: past, present, and future.

The Four Beasts correspond to the four parts of the great statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2:

1. The first beast is the Babylonian empire.
2. The second beast represents the Medo-Persian empire.
3. The third beast is the Greek empire and the conquest of Alexander the Great.
4. The fourth beast is the Roman empire.

The kings are powerful, but their power is given to them by God. These kingdoms, powerful as they are, fierce as they are, vast as they are, are no match for God's kingdom.

Thus far, everything Daniel has seen has been here on earth. In verse 9, the scene changes. What is the new setting? Heaven

In verses 9–11, what are some of the things that the fire of God symbolizes? Purity, holiness, wrath, judgment

In Daniel 7:14, the theme of this book is repeated: "His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed."

We know the end of the story. But this victory is yet future. Between now and then, a battle will rage between which two kingdoms? The kingdom of man and the kingdom of God

In Daniel 7:28, how did Daniel feel when he considered what kind of suffering lay ahead? Terrified, weak, undone, etc.

Daniel's visions were preserved in Scripture so that we might see God's perspective, God's purposes, and God's eternal plans. **God wins, Heaven rules, and we will reign and rule with Him.** That's the end of the story, and it's worth waiting for.

WHEN YOU'RE OVERWHELMED BY TROUBLE (DANIEL 8) ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Two years after the vision of Daniel 7, Daniel had a second vision. How many years later would these prophetic events take place? 350 years

Most commentators believe that the little horn in Daniel 8:9–11 refers to the Hellenistic or Greek King named Antiochus Epiphanes. He called himself “Theos Epiphanes,” which means “god manifest.”

What is Antiochus Epiphanes known historically for doing? Trampling on rulers and God’s people, murdering Jewish people, invading Jerusalem, desecrating the temple of God, etc.

The reign of terror by Antiochus Epiphanes was God’s way of disciplining His people for their sin and their rebellion against Him.

God uses kings and rulers and laws and edicts—whatever means are necessary—to get our attention and to bring us as His people to a place of repentance and obedience.

God knows exactly how long each king, each ruler, and each empire will reign. Every event in heaven and every event on earth operates on God’s timetable, not man’s.

The description that begins in verse 23 has two kinds of fulfillment:

- It has a near fulfillment, which is about the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes.
- It has a far fulfillment, which is about the Antichrist.

In verse 25, what will be the outcome of the evil ruler? “He will be broken—not by human hands.”

This detailed prophecy reminds us that God not only knows what’s going to happen in the future, God determines what is going to happen in the future.

After God revealed the vision to Daniel, what did he do? He says in verse 27, “Then I got up and went about the king’s business.”

We have been placed here by God in this time and in this place and we are to serve wherever He has put us, while at the same time keeping our hearts firmly planted in His eternal kingdom, living with hope.

Why do we have hope? We know that the purposes and promises of God will be fulfilled.

WHEN YOU NEED ENDURANCE THROUGH DIFFICULTIES (DANIEL 9)

ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

In chapter 9, we see that Daniel is a man of prayer.

While everyone else's attention was turned toward Darius, what were Daniel's eyes fixed on? The Most High God and His kingdom.

Where did Daniel get perspective about what was going on in the world?

- Not from social media
- Not from cable news
- But from reading Scripture

Daniel's study of Scripture led him to his knees. **Let our study of God's Word move us to prayer, and let our prayers be grounded in God's Word.**

What happens when we see the greatness, the grace, and the goodness of God? We see ourselves more clearly in His light. We see how sinful we are and how much we need God's mercy and grace.

Daniel didn't excuse. He didn't defend. He just humbly confessed. In Daniel 9:5 he says, "We have sinned, done wrong, acted wickedly, rebelled, and turned away from your commands and ordinances."

How does God answer Daniel's prayer? In verse 24, God says He will:

- Put an end to sin
- Atone for iniquity
- Bring in everlasting righteousness

God promised to send an Anointed One to earth, "Messiah, the Prince."

In verse 26, this Messiah would be "cut off." What is this a reference to? The crucifixion of Christ that brings about the forgiveness of sin and the atoning for our iniquity

Daniel prayed for God to forgive and intervene on behalf of His people, and the answer was that God had heard Daniel's prayer and would do as Daniel had asked . . . on His own timetable.

We need to endure through the difficulties, clinging in faith to Him who has promised that one day all things on this earth will be redeemed, all prayers will be answered, and all things will be made new.

WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE WHAT GOD IS DOING (DANIEL 10) ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

When we say Heaven rules, we mean God rules. God is in charge. His hand is always at work in the heavenly realm in the circumstances that we see in this earthly realm.

Daniel 10:1 says that the message revealed to Daniel “was true and was about a great conflict.”

Scripture doesn't gloss over the reality that as long as we live in a sinful, broken world, we will be in a battle.

Daniel spent three weeks in mourning and in fervent prayer. Those three weeks were a prelude to a great vision that God wanted to give him of

- God's glory
- God's power
- God's plan

How did Daniel respond when he experienced the presence of the majesty and glory of God? He fell down on his face, terrified, at a loss for words.

If the sight of Christ and His glory had this kind of effect on Daniel, what do you think it would be like if we were to truly behold the glory of the risen, reigning Christ? One day, we will!

The presence of God strikes terror in finite, sinful men; but for those of us who are in Christ, the presence of God also speaks peace to us. Grace frees us from fear.

Daniel 10:12: “Don't be afraid, Daniel,” he said to me, “for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your prayers were heard. I have come because of your prayers.”

The forces of evil are powerful, and sometimes they create hurdles and difficulties and delays for God's people, but these evil beings are all under God's authority. They cannot stop His work from being accomplished.”

In times of trouble or conflict, what does God arm His servants with? The book of truth (the Word of God)

We are not left to battle alone here on this earth. God sends His holy angels to support and strengthen His saints in the battle.

2 Corinthians 4:18: “So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

God is doing His eternal work even when we don't see it. When we fix our eyes on Jesus and trust Him, we won't be moved.

THE DIFFERENCE IT MAKES — ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

There's a two-word answer for every two-word worry: Heaven rules.

If God's people are to be strong and courageous and pure, standing for God against the rising tide of evil, they will have to do two things. Matthew 26:41 (NIV) says, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

In order to do what God had put him on this earth to do, Daniel needed to get on his knees and pray.

- He did this using his pattern of three times a day.
- He did it in times of crisis.
- He did it for extended periods of time.

We have the book of Daniel in part because Daniel prayed and then captured what God told him. His prayers were not just for his people and his day. Our prayers may also be for a day we will not live to see. But God is always at work, hearing and sending answers to our prayers.

Good theology matters. It matters that we know God and know what He is like. We need to counsel our hearts with truth such as

- "Anything that makes me need God is a blessing."
- "God is on His throne. Heaven rules."

In Matthew 10:28, Jesus says, "Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul. Rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

For those who belong to God, there is eternal safety in Christ. He is our refuge.

There's freedom in realizing: "It's not up to me. I am not God. I am not in charge. I can't change people or circumstances, but I can walk with God and live in peace. Even when I cannot see the outcome, I can trust that God is in control."

The book of Daniel reminds us that kings come and go. Kingdoms come and go. They are not ultimate. But God is.

In the big things and little things we need to develop an impulse to trust God. He knows what He is doing.

The fact that Heaven rules doesn't mean you don't ever feel the terror or the trembling—but Daniel was tethered to the goodness of God, the greatness of God, the glory of God, the promises of God, and the Word of Truth. He couldn't hold it in his hands, but we can.

WHEN LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE (DANIEL 11) — ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Chapters 10–12 form a unit in the book of Daniel. How old is Daniel in these chapters? Late 80s

Who is speaking to Daniel in Daniel 10:20–12:4? An angel (some think it is Gabriel)

Daniel 11 describes a time of great tribulation for the nation of Israel. These details regarding the rise and the fall of Gentile world powers were known and decreed by the God of Heaven before they ever happened.

The future is as fully known to God as if it had already happened. It is all under His control.

After Alexander the Great's death, the Greek Empire was divided. Daniel 11–12 tracks two of those dynasties:

- The kings of the North, who were the rulers of Syria (known as the Seleucids).
- The kings of the South, who were the rulers of Egypt (known as the Ptolemies).

"North" and "South" were located in relation to what place? Israel

Daniel 11:5–20 includes 200 years of wars between the two warring powers. During this period, whoever was in power controlled the Holy Land.

Daniel 11:21–35 describes the rise of a new Seleucid king in the North, Antiochus IV Epiphanes. In Daniel 8, he was the little horn in Daniel's dream. In 167 B.C. he ransacked the Temple in Jerusalem.

In response to pressure and persecution, Daniel says in Daniel 11:32: "The people who know their God will be strong and take action."

Antiochus Epiphanes foreshadows another more vile ruler who is yet to come. Who is the ruler in vv. 36–45? Antichrist

There is nothing new about the rise and fall of evil kings and kingdoms throughout history. This is always going to be the case until King Jesus comes to establish His kingdom here on earth.

The prophecies in Daniel 11 were intended to give encouragement to the Jews, God's covenant people who would be overrun by Gentile powers for a time.

This passage also gives hope to the people of God in every era who are oppressed and persecuted by God's enemies. God says to us what He said to Daniel: "Don't be afraid, you who are treasured by God. Peace to you; be very strong!"

As believers, a lot of times we don't feel strong. We need to remember that no earthly king, no matter how powerful, will endure forever. At the appointed time when Christ returns, all of the adversaries will meet their end . . . and Jesus will reign and rule forever.

WHEN WE KNOW THE END OF THE STORY (DANIEL 12) ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

In Daniel 12:1, who is Michael, the Great Prince, and what is he always connected with in Scripture? An angel who is always connected with spiritual battles. During the Great Tribulation, when the Antichrist rises up, Michael will rise up to defend God's people. *When the powers of evil arise, God does not leave His people to fend for themselves.*

12:3 says, "Those who have insight will shine like the bright expanse of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

Philippians 2:15 says it this way: "So that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world."

What does it mean to be *saka*? To be wise, to lead and point others to the righteousness that is in Christ.

All history is moving toward a predetermined, ordained end. It will take place exactly when and how God has ordered because Heaven rules.

The questions Daniel asks in verses 12:6 and 12:8 are the same questions we ask in distress:

- How long will this last?
- How is this going to end?

It's not wrong to ask the questions, but at the end of the day, we have to be willing to trust the One, the only One, who we know has answers to the questions. He is trustworthy.

What do we do as we wait? The angel tells Daniel, "As for you, go on your way to the end" (12:13). We keep living as faithful servants of the Lord—all the way to the end of our lives.

After Daniel had served and labored faithfully, what promise was given to him? "You will rest, and then you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance at the end of the days" (v. 13).

This is similar to Revelation 14:13: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord ... they will rest from their labors."

This promise given to Daniel is for all of His people. You will be rewarded: every faithful deed, every time you persevered in the hard places and through the tears, in all of the questions you trusted God with. Someday ...

- Faith will be sight.
- Prayer will be praise.
- And we will be with the Lord forever.

WHEN YOU NEED STABILITY — ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

The world in which Daniel lived was upside down—but that is nothing new. Sin is the individual and the collective default of the human race. The world will be upside down until what happens? Until Jesus returns to turn it right side up, creating a new earth and establishing His eternal kingdom here on earth.

Daniel knew that the God he served was the true and supreme King. Daniel was living for eternity and for the kingdom of God that will never end.

Throughout the book of Daniel, we're reminded that Heaven rules:

- Daniel 4:3: "His kingdom is an eternal kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation."
- Daniel 4:25–26: "the Most High is ruler over human kingdoms, and he gives them to anyone he wants. . . your kingdom will be restored to you [he said to King Nebuchadnezzar] as soon as you acknowledge that Heaven rules."
- Daniel 7:13–14: "And suddenly one like a son of man was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him. He was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed."

Do we live as if Heaven rules or earth rules? If we believe that Heaven rules . . .

- We will resolve to live as holy people of a holy God rather than assimilating into the culture around us.
- We will not panic or despair when it looks like the enemies of God are winning, when hard things happen, when our freedoms are threatened, or when comforts are removed.
- We will have courage. We won't give in to pressure to conform.
- We will be praying people.
- We will be people of hope vs. people who are perpetually outraged against the culture.
- We will be humble people with a right view of God and ourselves.
- We won't feel we have to control the people or the circumstances around us.
- We will serve faithfully wherever God puts us, even in a pagan environment.
- We will be steadfast and calm when our culture is chaotic and out of control.
- We will believe that God can change the heart of the most proud, ungodly leader.
- We will see every crisis in our world and in our lives as an opportunity for the impotence of the gods of this world to be exposed and for the greatness of God to be displayed.

WE WILL RISE UP — ANSWER KEY

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Wherever we're serving God today, as hard as it may be, is not where we will be serving forever. Our faithfulness as we serve here will be rewarded when we get to God's throne.

What gives us the ability to be hopeful people is that we are the holy ones of God. We have hope. There's triumph coming. Evil will not win.

Daniel 12:3 reminds us, "Those who have insight will shine like the bright expanse of the heavens." The world cannot snuff out the light of true believers because it's the light of Christ!

When we are thrown into the fire, we are not alone. God has not promised to rescue us from the fire, but He has promised to sustain us through it. Blessed is the one who waits. At the end of the story, God will rescue us.

Psalm 34:19 says, "One who is righteous has many adversities, but the LORD rescues him from them all."

Psalm 34:19 and Psalm 16:10 are prophecies. Who are they about? Jesus

By God's grace, do what He gives you grace and strength to do. Don't stop until the end.

- Then, in the end, you will rest.
- Then you will rise.
- Then you will be rewarded.

Don't expect the reward now. If you are doing what God has given you to do in this season, it does matter. In His time, and at the end, you will receive the allotted inheritance for faithfulness.

The first and last verse of Daniel 12 form a bookend. What word appears at the beginning and at the end of the chapter? "Rise"

The day will come when we, as the people of God, will rise. We will stand—not in our own strength but as testimonies to the power of Christ, who says, "Receive the inheritance prepared for you by your Father from eternity past." Amen.