

GearTalk: Summer of Stories: Daniel

Daniel's Similarities to Joseph (Part 1)

- good-looking youths
- exiled slaves because of the sins of their kin
- sent ahead of the rest of the family
- given a foreign name
- placed under charge of king's "eunuch/official" (sārîs)
- God gave favor before his captor
- more successful than peers in service of gov't official

Daniel's Similarities to Joseph (Part 2)

- "spirit" of the foreign king "troubled" by a dream
- summoned magicians; lives at stake; couldn't divine interpretation
 - 47 of 49 uses of "interpretation" in Gen 40–41 and Dan 2–5
- "chief of the guard" presents before the king "in haste"
- king questioned ability, but credit given to God
- twice called the dream prophet, revealed interp, offered assurance of truth
 - *Daniel is the only other character in Scripture besides Joseph who is credited with the ability to interpret dreams.*
- by the Spirit of God
- received homage, gifts, authority to rule "over all"
- lives were saved: Jews and Gentiles
- by request, kinsmen honored and hired by the foreign king

Daniel's Similarities to Joseph (Part 3)

- "clothed" in royal garments with "a chain of gold around his neck" (Gen 41:42; Dan 5:29)
- colleagues jealous, plotted death to prevent reign (Dan 6:1–9; Gen 37:4, 18–20; Acts 7:9)
- integrity, but accused of treachery
- unsuccessful attempts to deliver (Reuben/Darius)
- thrown into a pit
 - "den" makes me think horizontal entrance (cave/lair), but it's a vertical "pit" (Dan 6:24)
- Darius refused to be comforted like Jacob, thinking eaten by wild beasts
- raised from the pit and exalted to second in command

Why a New Joseph?

At the end of Joseph's story, God's people are "exiled" outside the Promised Land. Joseph's last words express faith in the coming exodus (Gen 50:24–25). And after Joseph did come Moses and the Exodus. In Daniel's time, God's people are exiled

outside the Promised Land. For God to raise up a new Joseph gives the people confidence that God is still favoring His people, still faithful to His promises, and it gives them confidence that after Daniel will come the New Moses and the New Exodus. And that's why, just as Joseph was overshadowed by the prophecy of Joseph-like Lion of Judah, Daniel is overshadowed by the prophecy of the Son of Man in Daniel 7. The Son of Man will be the New Moses to lead the New Exodus.

The Son of Man's Similarities (in ch. 7) to Daniel (in ch. 6)

- In Daniel's apocalyptic dream, beasts—the first of which was like a lion—devoured each other and the people of God (7:1–8, 19–25), just as the literal lions in the pit (6:24).
- Then the Ancient of Days gave judgment against the enemies and on behalf of the son of man (7:9–14), just as King Darius gave judgment on behalf of Daniel and against his persecutors (6:24–28).
- The Ancient of Days installed the son of man on a throne as second in command (7:9, 13–14), just as Darius with Daniel (6:3, 28).
- Then Darius wrote to “all the peoples, nations, and languages” of the earth to revere Daniel's God because “his kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, and his dominion will be to the end” (6:25–26). Similarly, but with shocking escalation, the Ancient of Days purposes for “all peoples, nations, and languages” to serve the one like a son of man because “his dominion is a dominion of eternity, which will not pass away, and his kingdom, one that will not be destroyed” (7:14; note the mirror with 6:26: kingdom, dominion, dominion, kingdom).
- As N. T. Wright concluded from the correspondences: “Dramatically, poetically, the sequence is identical” (cf. Michael Shepherd). They don't draw the conclusion that I draw from this (along with multiple additional reasons): because of the parallel between ch. 6 and ch. 7, readers should expect the son of man (the ultimate Daniel, the ultimate Joseph, the hero of Genesis 3:15) to suffer before He is raised to save and reign forever.

Jesus's Similarities to Daniel

- Both were maliciously accused of wrong-doing for well-doing, and both were willing, righteous sufferers (Dan 6:10, 13, 24; Matt 26:39).
- Just as Daniel was caught by envious satraps in the act of praying (Dan 6:11), the envious Jewish leaders sent to arrest Jesus while He was praying (Matt 26:47).
- Their enemies both forced the ruler to persecute them for their religious belief and practice, ultimately charging sedition, and though the ruler tried to spare, he went forward with the unjust punishment (Dan 6:13–15; Luke 23:1–25; John 19:12–16).
- Daniel was literally surrounded by lions (Dan 6:17); Jesus was literally with wild animals (θηρίων) in the desert (Mark 1:13) and metaphorically surrounded by “lions” in his trial and crucifixion (Ps 22:13, 21).

- Both were placed in a pit with a stone rolled over the pit, which was sealed to prevent anyone from taking them out (Dan 6:17; Matt 27:60, 66).
- As Daniel was discovered alive at daybreak (Dn 6:19), so also Jesus, on the third day (Matt 28:1).
- Both were delivered from death because of innocence and trust in God (Dan 6:22, 23; Ps 22:8, 19–24; Matt 28:6; Heb 5:7; 1 Tim 3:16).
- David Schrock makes the interesting point that Daniel’s salvation invalidated the penalty of the law, as did Jesus’s.
- Both were taken up from the pit to rule the world as second in command, Daniel under Darius and Jesus at the right hand of God the Father (Dan 6:23; Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33–34).
- As Daniel’s enemies died for their conspiracy (6:24), so did some of Jesus’s enemies die at the hand of the pagan king in AD 70 because of their rejection of Him (Matt 21:38–44; Luke 19:41–44)—and so will all of His enemies die at His return and the final judgment (19:27).
- Finally, we can note that Daniel’s salvation led to Darius’s decree that all peoples, nations, and languages should tremble and fear God for what He did for Daniel (6:25–27), just as the gospel of Jesus’s exaltation goes forth to all ethnicities for God’s glory.

Take-aways

- Confidence in the providence of God over redemptive history, promising and fulfilling since Gen 3:15.
- Confidence in the inspiration of Scripture with so many inner-biblical allusions.
- Motivation to keep studying Scripture with an eye to BT. Grateful to books like Dr. DeRouchie’s *Delighting in the Old Testament*. On the Joseph/Daniel typology, several good articles but especially Samuel Emadi, *From Prisoner to Prince: The Joseph Story in Biblical Theology* (NSBT). I want to meditate on the Scriptures and learn to see these connections the way they see them and grow in grace to teach the Scriptures well—because God deserves the glory for the great things He has done!
- Finally, Jesus is the Joseph-like Lion of Judah and the Daniel-like Son of Man, who suffered to save His people; so, let’s go tell all the peoples. Finally, Jesus is the Joseph-like Lion of Judah and the Daniel-like Son of Man, who suffered to save His people; so, let’s go tell all the peoples.