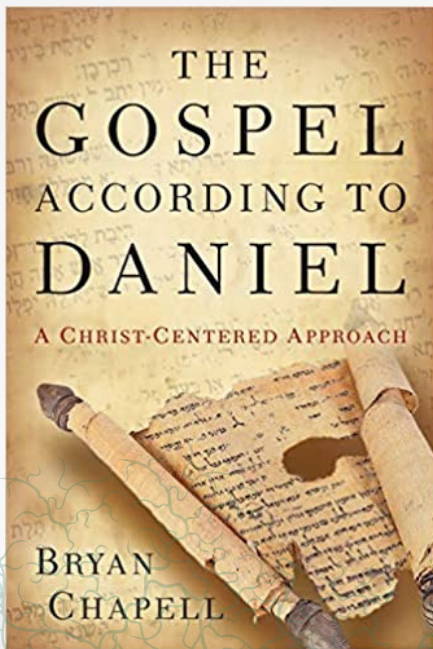




DR. BRYAN CHAPELL

THE GOSPEL
ACCORDING
TO DANIEL

HCPC 2020 BIBLE STUDY




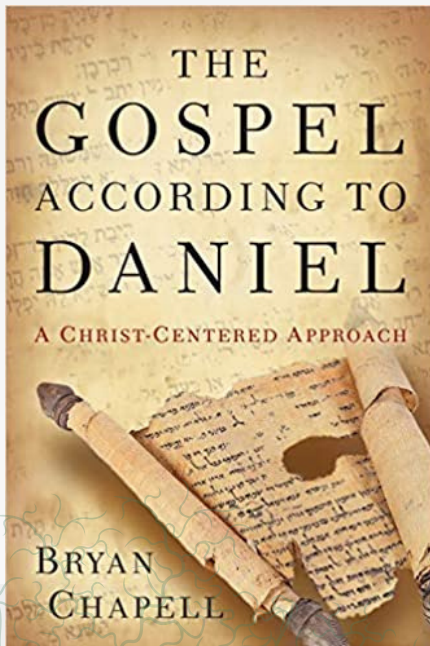
HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS STUDY

We recognize that “life happens”! This study is designed to meet you where you are. As with any small group time at HCPC, the more you put into it, the more you’ll get out of it! But if you put nothing into your preparation, you’ll still benefit from lingering with the Body of Christ in your small group time. So whether you do ALL the possible work or very little, we have an expectant giddiness that the Holy Spirit will use your times around the Word of God and with God’s people to work out His transforming grace in your life.


There will be three levels of engagement with the study that will allow everyone an opportunity to come to the small group prepare. You can use a 5-day, 3-day, or Single approach (see below). Depending on the challenges of that week and available time from one day to the next, you can choose which level of engagement will work for you! A printable or printed handout will be made available for each chapter in Daniel and the corresponding chapter in Chapell's book that will serve as a sort of journal to collect your thoughts and prayers as you prayerfully interact with the material.

5-Day Approach


This engagement is for the participant who wishes to really dig into the study on an almost daily basis. Day 1 & 2 will deal exclusively with spending time in the Word of God and prayer with an increasing depth from day 1 to day 2. Days 3 & 4 will deal primarily with the corresponding chapter in Bryan Chapell's book with increasing depth. Day 5 will be a quick review of your notes from throughout the week as you consider what questions are still unanswered in your own heart, what God has revealed through your interaction with His Word, and what personal things you would like to share with the small group as you meet. Look for the  in the weekly download to keep pace.



3-Day Approach

This engagement is for the participant who has at least three different days during the week to commit to the study. In this approach, you'll focus on the "Day 2" material as you read and reflect on the big ideas of the chapter in the book of Daniel while asking good "heart" questions as you reflect. Your second day will be spending time in prayer and reading of the corresponding chapter Chapell's book by interacting with the "Day 4" material from Level 1. Finally, the third day would be to follow the "Day 5" material from Level 1. Look for the  to keep pace with the weekly download for the 3-day approach.

1-Day Approach

This is the simplest and quickest but nonetheless rewarding engagement. In this variation, you will focus on making sure you're at least a little familiar with the content of the chapter so you can come to the small group with something to contribute without feeling overwhelmed by life or feeling like you can't participate! Again, if you do this minimal amount it should provide all you need to interact with your small group without feeling overwhelmed. This level will recommend a single day combining of the "Day 1" material from Level 1, along with "Day 3" and "Day 5". In essence, it effectively only requires that you've read the chapter in the Scriptures, the chapter in Chapell's book, and reflect briefly on what sorts of things you hope to ask or consider in the small group time when you're together. Look for the  to follow this approach.

Had a really bad week?

Just read the chapter in God's Word! That will help you navigate the discussion with the rest of the group without getting lost along the way! Again, how much you're able to put into this study will vary from week to week but the more you engage, the more nourishment for your soul so we hope and pray you can at least be fully engaged with whatever pace you can muster. May He bless and keep you along the way!

DANIEL

CHAPTER 5

Ready your heart: Ask the Father to give you insight into His Word as you prepare your heart in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit.

Read: Carefully read the chapter in Daniel.

Reflect: In the remaining space, jot down any initial observations that encourage your heart, stir your faith, or expose your need for Jesus' redeeming work.



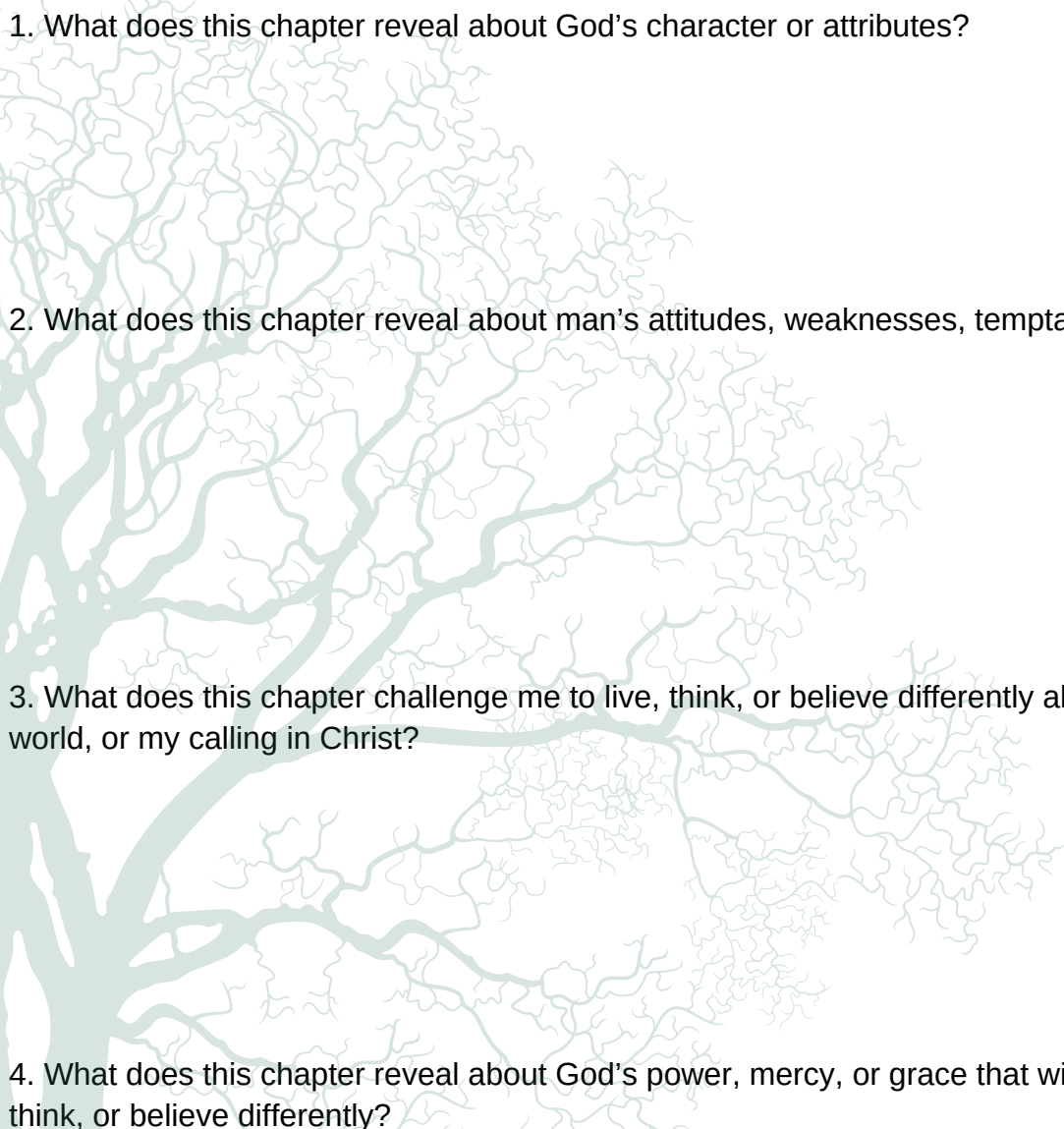
DANIEL

CHAPTER 5

Ready your heart: Ask the Father to give you insight into His Word as you prepare your heart in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit.

Read: Carefully read the chapter in Daniel.

Reflect: Answer the following diagnostic questions based on your reading of this chapter.

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1. What does this chapter reveal about God's character or attributes?
 2. What does this chapter reveal about man's attitudes, weaknesses, temptations, or sins?
 3. What does this chapter challenge me to live, think, or believe differently about God, myself, my world, or my calling in Christ?
 4. What does this chapter reveal about God's power, mercy, or grace that will enable me to live, think, or believe differently?

DANIEL

CHAPTER 5

Ready your heart: Ask the Father to give you insight into His Word as you prepare your heart in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit.

Read: Carefully read this chapter in The Gospel According to Daniel.

Reflect: In the remaining space below, jot down what appear to be the main ideas of the chapter, especially noting section headings and the major concepts that either confuse you or encourage your heart.



DANIEL

CHAPTER 5

Ready your heart: Ask the Father to give you insight into His Word as you prepare your heart in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit.

Read: Carefully read this chapter in The Gospel According to Daniel, (or quickly skim if you've already read) this chapter in The Gospel According to Daniel (GAtD).

Reflect: Answer the questions below based on the content of the chapter.

1. Write a one or two sentence summary of Daniel chapter 5 based on the first few pages of chapter 5 in GATD. (Hint: comparing the hearts of Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 4, and Belshazzar in chapter 5 and God's response to it)

2. Chapell:

Who wants to hear about judgment or talk about it? But if sin has no consequence, if evil has no check, if justice never comes, then what good is God and of what benefit is his grace? If grace is amazing, then it must rescue us from something and that something is highlighted in this passage by three words: Mene, Tekel, Peres.

Reflect on a time when hearing what was true was hard for you to receive. What did it take to get to your heart? What did it take to get through to Belshazzar's and what were some of the "obstacles" or "securities" to his ability to hear that he wasn't as secure as he might assume?

3. The first invitation to overcome those false securities is to "Beware". What are key things from which we are to guard our hearts and where might this show up in your life?

DANIEL

CHAPTER 5

4. The second invitation is to “grieve.” Reflect on your answer to the questions posed by Chapell at the end of this quote. Is this easy or difficult for you?

Daniel grieved over the judgment that surely would follow Nebuchadnezzar’s sin (Dan. 4:19) and lamented the decline of Babylon’s commitment (Dan. 5:22). Daniel’s grief—which reflected God’s grief—was recorded to turn God’s people from sin. Is it possible that today’s church has lost the power to turn God’s people from sin precisely because we do not sincerely grieve for the effects of sin in their lives? Are our friends and family members wandering away because they know no one will really grieve if they are lost or damaged by their wayward choices? We are quick to point out evil, quick to judge, glad we are not caught in such sin—but are we grieving for those whom sin has led astray? Have we so concerned ourselves with our own blessings that we have lost the capacity to weep for those who have wandered?

5. The next invitation is to “repent.” Chapell invites us to see the invitation to repent in Daniel 5, and the ultimate declaration at the cross of God’s love and the encouragement to repent. How does confidence that we live in a “just universe” (proven by the Cross) lead us to repentance?

6. Chapell concludes with another invitation to “grow in grace.” What are some of final takeaways that challenged you toward this invitation or exposed your hesitancy to do so? Consider writing a short prayer to the Lord asking Him to begin transforming your heart toward a deeper hunger for His grace below.

DANIEL

CHAPTER 5

Ready your heart: Ask the Father to give you insight into His Word as you prepare your heart in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit.

Read: Read back through your notes and observations from the week's study.

Reflect: In the remaining space below, write down things that particularly challenged or confused you in the readings this week that you could relay to your small group, as well as prayer requests and praises you wish to pass on to the group, and any additional insights that you've learned along the way.

