

Daniel

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Figure 1: Belshazzar's Feast (public domain/Cassell's Illustrated Family Bible)

The Book of Daniel: A Composite Work

Linguistically

- ▶ Hebrew (chs 1, 8–12)
- ▶ Aramaic (chs 2–7)
- ▶ (Greek, ch. 3, 13–14)

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Thematically

- ▶ Courtly persecution and prophecy (chs 1–6)
- ▶ Visions (chs 7–12)
- ▶ (Prayer and praise, ch. 3)
- ▶ (Susanna, ch. 13)
- ▶ (Bel and the Dragon, ch. 14)

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Narrative mode

- ▶ Third-person narrator (chs 1–3, 5–6)
- ▶ First-person narrator
 - ▶ Nebuchadnezzar (ch. 4)
 - ▶ Daniel (chs 7–12)

The Book of Daniel: Structure

Part I: Events at the Babylonian and Medo-Persian courts

1. Nebuchadnezzar (II) sacks Jerusalem, takes temple treasures, captives (ch. 1)
2. Daniel and the three youths request dietary exception and thrive (ch. 1)
3. Daniel explains Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the statue (ch. 2)
4. Nebuchadnezzar persecutes the three youths; God delivers them (ch. 3)
5. (Prayer of Azarias; Canticle of the Three Youths, ch. 3)
6. Daniel explains Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree (ch. 4)
7. Nebuchadnezzar lives seven years as a savage and is restored (ch. 4)
8. Belshazzar defiles the temple treasures and Babylonia falls (ch. 5)
9. Darius casts Daniel into a lions' den; God delivers him (ch. 6)

The Book of Daniel: Structure

Part II: Daniel's Visions

1. Four beasts (ch. 7)
2. The ram and the goat (ch. 8)
3. The seventy weeks until Jerusalem is rebuilt (ch. 9)
4. The angel's revelation of the kings of the north and south (chs 10–12)
5. (Susanna, ch. 13)
6. (Bel and the Dragon, ch. 14)

The World Tree

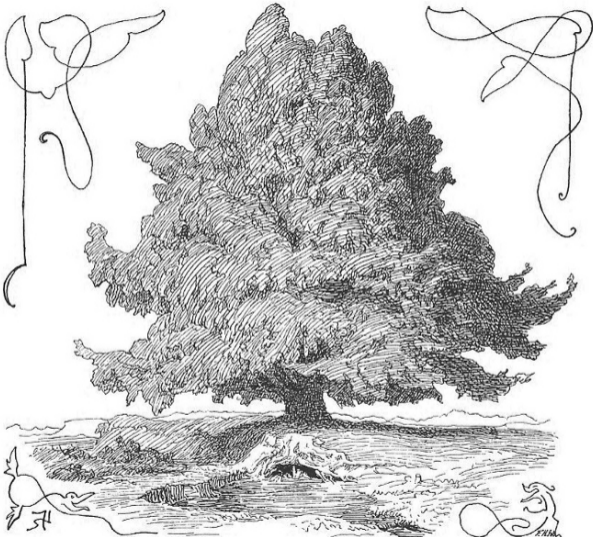


Figure 2: The World Tree (Public domain/[Lorenz Frølich](#))

The World Tree

- ▶ Scandinavia: *Yggdrasill*
- ▶ Slavonic traditions
- ▶ Central American traditions
- ▶ Judaism
 - ▶ Trees of paradise (terrestrial and heavenly)
 - ▶ Nebuchadnezzar's dream
- ▶ Christianity: the cross

Bibliography

- Anlezark, Daniel, ed. 2011. *Old Testament Narratives*. Translated by Daniel Anlezark. Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Farrell, R. T., ed. 1974. *Daniel and Azarias*. London: Methuen.