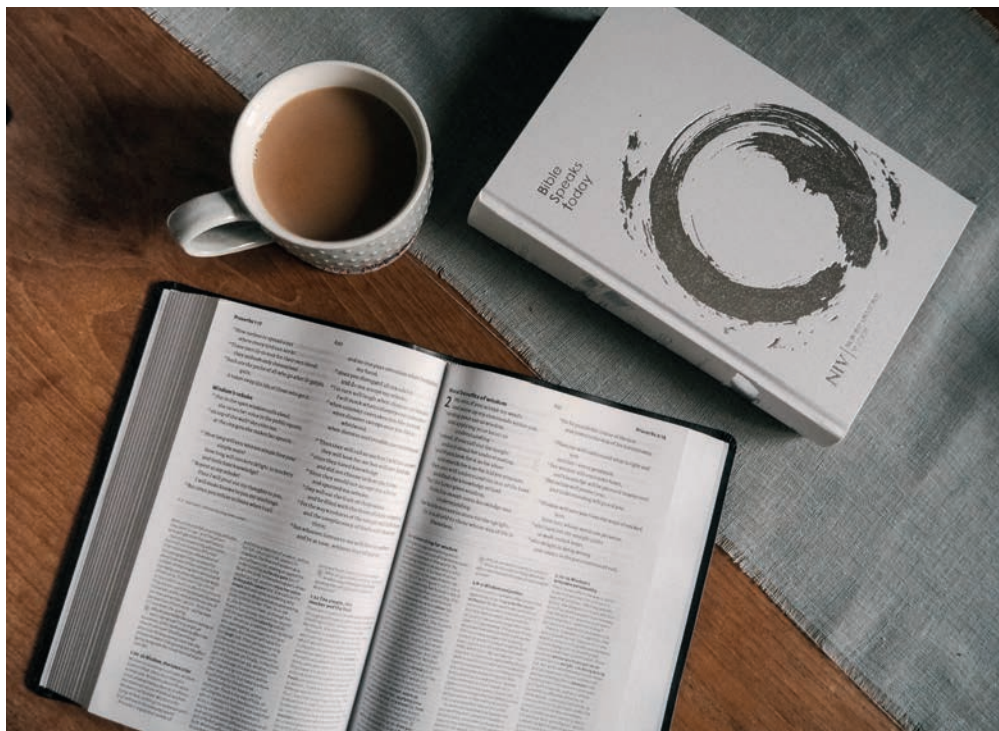


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Speaks  
today

NIV Bible and  
redesigned series

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## NIV Bible Speaks Today

Listen to God speaking life by the Spirit for the world

The New International Version is the world's bestselling modern English Bible translation, known for drawing on the most up-to-date scholarship to deliver both accuracy and clarity of language. *The NIV Bible Speaks Today* combines the NIV with more than 2,300 panels of the best extracts from the Bible Speaks Today series.

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Be equipped to apply the Bible to your life and to the world today.



### Features:

- Complete text of the New International Version (British text)
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- Outlines that give a brief overview of each Bible book
- Background and setting to provide the context to understand each book
- Themes and relevance to apply the Bible to the contemporary world
- Maps showing the locations of key Bible events
- Parallel passages cross-referenced to identical or similar passages

### Specifications:

**Size:** 234 x 156 mm

**Bible text:** Karmina Regular, 9pt

**Study note text:** Karmina Sans Light, 7pt

**Page count:** 1,792

**Double column, paragraph format**

**Footnotes**

**Inline chapter headings**

**Inline chapter numbers**

**Two ribbon markers** (clothbound and leatherbound editions)

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# Special Features of this edition of the Bible

For each book of the Bible:

Outline that gives a brief overview of the structure of each book

Background and setting to provide the context of each book

Themes and relevance to present how the underlying topics of each book apply to the contemporary world

## Daniel

**Outline**

<b>Stories from exile</b>		<b>The transition from stories to visions</b>
1:1-21	Prologue	7:1-28
2:1-49	Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's interpretation	The vision of the four beasts and the son of man
3:1-30	The fiery furnace	
4:1-37	Nebuchadnezzar's second dream and Daniel's interpretation	<b>Daniel's visions</b>
5:1-30	Daniel interprets the writing on the wall	8:1-27
6:1-28	The lion's den	9:1-27
		10:1-11:1
		11:2-45
		12:1-13
		The vision concerning Persia and Greece
		The desecration of the temple
		The end times

**Background and setting**

The book of Daniel consists of a series of six stories in chapters 1–6, followed by a sequence of four visions in chapters 7–12. The book is also bilingual: 2:4–7:28 is written in Aramaic, the rest in Hebrew. This language complexity complicates the stories—vision pattern; it seems that chapter 1 is a sort of prologue, and chapter 7 appears to have a pivotal, overlapping role.

The book begins in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in c. 600 BC. It was probably compiled in the Persian period near the end of Daniel's life (c. 530 BC)—though some people suggest that the individual stories were eventually brought together much later and are legendary, and that chapters 7–12 were not combined with them until c. 165 BC. This is partly based on chapter 11:29–39, which in the form of prophecy predicts the activities of Antiochus IV (Epiphanes), but the prophecy is so precise and accurate that it is argued that it could have been written only *after* the fact. If this is accepted then Daniel must have been produced once Antiochus' scourge had been witnessed, in order to encourage Israelites to remain faithful in the face of this lethal assault on their faith. However, while a second-century date eliminates the apparent predictive prophecy from Daniel, there are good arguments for the earlier dating, including that:

- the Aramaic and Hebrew language elements in Daniel are consistent with an earlier date.
- there are allusions to 'the prophet Daniel' in the Qumran materials which indicate that Daniel was regarded as a prophet on the same level as Isaiah and Ezekiel. The fact that these are associated with a date as early as 115 BC means it is likely that the book of Daniel's prophecies was written much earlier than 165 BC.
- the stories in Daniel 1–6 do not make sense in the context of Antiochus' persecution of the Jews. They depict Daniel manoeuvring to be faithful rather than being persecuted for their faith in the pagan system of Antiochus.

**Themes and relevance**

Chapter 1 (in Hebrew) serves as an introduction to the book. It is a structure is detectable as an 'ABC/ABC' pattern. The emphasis is on the superiority of God's kingdom over the human kingdom.

**1 In the beginning**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light 'day' and the darkness he called 'night.'

Complete text of the New International Version

Parallel passages (e.g. in the Gospels) to show identical or similar passages

Standard NIV footnotes

Questions at the end of every note, for personal or group use, to help reinforce understanding and application of the Bible text and accompanying note

1309

Matthew 8:19

**Jesus heals a man with leprosy**

8:2-4pp-Mk 1:40-44; Lk 5:12-14

**8** When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup>A man with leprosy<sup>a</sup> came and knelt before him and said, 'Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.'

<sup>3</sup>Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to him, 'See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.'

**The faith of the centurion**

8:5-13pp-Lk 7:1-10

<sup>5</sup>When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. <sup>6</sup>'Lord,' he said, 'my servant lies at home paralysed, suffering terribly.'

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Shall I come and heal him?' <sup>8</sup>The centurion replied, 'Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup>For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.'

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, 'Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. <sup>11</sup>I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup>But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus said to the centurion, 'Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.' And his servant was healed at that moment.

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**Jesus heals many**

8:14-16pp-Mk 1:29-34; Lk 4:38-41

<sup>14</sup>When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. <sup>15</sup>He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

<sup>16</sup>When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all who were ill. <sup>17</sup>This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

'He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.'

**The cost of following Jesus**

8:19-22pp-Lk 9:57-60

<sup>19</sup>When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. <sup>20</sup>Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, 'Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.'

<sup>a</sup> 2 The Greek word traditionally translated *leprosy* was used for various diseases affecting the skin.

<sup>b</sup> 17 Isaiah 53:4 (see Septuagint)

crucial question is not whether we hear Jesus' words but whether we do what we hear. Only a storm will reveal the truth.

What struck the first hearers of this Sermon was the preacher's extraordinary authority (29). He did not stumble or hesitate. Instead, with quiet assurance, he laid down the law for the citizens of God's kingdom. The crowds were amazed—and after two thousand years, we are amazed too!

**Q** What surprises you about those who do great things in Jesus' name, but who are ultimately rejected by him (7:21-23)? What is the danger of hearing Jesus' words, but not putting them into practice? Which of the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount has touched you most deeply?

**8:1-17 The healings of Jesus**

Matthew 8 and 9 largely consist of three sets of stories, each set containing three miracles. The authority of God is manifest not only in his preaching,

but in his mighty deeds. The signs of the kingdom are obvious.

In the first story, Jesus heals a Jewish man with leprosy (1-4). Leprosy sentenced sufferers to a living death (Lev 13:46). This disease illustrated so well the spiritual condition of humanity. For sin is a terrible disease that separates us from others and from God; it spreads and it is fatal. The fulfilment of the law is the climax of the story: **show yourself to the priest ... as a testimony to them** (4).

This healing is a testimony to the fact that one greater than Moses has come. In the second story, Jesus heals the centurion's servant (5-13). His word (8) was mighty both to transform lives and to heal bodies, in the Gentile mission as well as among those Jews who were responding to their Messiah. **Faith** (10) is the key to entry into the messianic banquet (11) and to experiencing the power of Jesus (13).

After a full day of ministry, Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law (14-15). Just as Jesus took time for her, his disciples should expect that he can do the same for them and their families. Matthew's conclusion to this trio of healings is to note that Jesus fulfils Isa 53:4. So costly was this healing that he took up our infirmities and bore our diseases (17). Jesus was willing to endure the pain, ostracism and defilement of broken humanity. He bore our sicknesses as well as our sins all the way to Calvary.

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**Q** What do each of the three healings indicate about Jesus' mission? To what extent do you think disciples of Jesus today should expect to replicate his healing ministry?

**8:18-22 Costly and immediate discipleship**

Following three miracles, Matthew presents two stories of discipleship. First, in response to the enthusiastic **I will follow you wherever you go** (19), Jesus points out the cost of commitment.

Over 2,300 notes that are extracts edited from the individual books in the *Bible Speaks Today* series to explain and apply the Bible text

\*Actual Text Size



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Caleb Woodbridge, Publishing Director, explains the vision behind the new-look Bible Speaks Today editions.

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