

Daniel

MEANING “God is my Judge.”

AUTHOR: Daniel

TIME WRITTEN: Written by Cyrus’ 9th year (530 B.C.)

POSITION IN THE BIBLE:

- 27th Book in the Bible
- 27th book in the Old Testament
- 5th of 17 books of Prophecy
- 5th and last of 5 Major Prophet Books
- 26 have preceded it. 39 to follow it.

CHAPTERS: 12

VERSES: 357

WORDS: 11,606

KEY WORD: God’s program for Israel

TWO KEY PASSAGES:

1. **Daniel 2:20-23** - “Daniel answered and said: Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His.
And He changes the times and the seasons; he removes kings and raises up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.
He reveals deep and secret things; he knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.
2. **Daniel 2:44** - “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”

KEY CHAPTER: Daniel 9

1. Daniel’s prophecy of the seventy weeks (9:24-27)
2. Many applications have been suggested by the seventy weeks.

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT DANIEL:

1. Daniel’s life and ministry bridge the entire seventy-year period of Babylonian captivity.
2. Daniel:
 - a. Deported to Babylon (900 miles away) at the age of sixteen.
 - b. Handpicked for government service in Babylon.
 - c. Became God’s mouthpiece to the Gentile and Jewish world declaring God’s present and eternal purpose.
3. Nine of the twelve chapters in his book revolve around dreams. Including:
 - a. Trees
 - b. Animals
 - c. Beasts
 - d. Images
4. Daniel and his three friends were evidently born into noble Judean families and were “(1) young men in whom there as no blemish, (2) but good-looking, (3) gifted in all wisdom, (4) possessing knowledge and (5) quick to understand.” (1:4)
5. Daniel was given three years of training in the best of Babylon’s schools. (1:5)
6. As part of his reidentification process, he was given a new name that honored one of the Babylonian deities:
 - a. The name was “Belteshazzar.”

- b. Belteshazzar meant “Bel Protect His Life.”
- c. Daniel did not need Bel or any other false god— He had the true God.
- 7. Daniel’s wisdom and divinely given interpretive abilities brought him into a position of prominence, especially in the courts of:
 - a. Nebuchadnezzar
 - b. Darius
- 8. Of the 2,930 Bible characters, he is one of the few well-known characters about whom nothing negative is ever written.
- 9. Daniel’s life was characterized by:
 - a. Faith
 - b. Prayer
 - c. Courage
 - d. Consistency
 - e. Lack of compromise
- 10. Three times Daniel is mentioned by his sixth century contemporary, Ezekiel, as an example of righteousness.
 - a. Ezekiel 9:23
 - b. Ezekiel 10:11
 - c. Ezekiel 10:19
- 11. The time frame surrounding Daniel.
 - a. Babylon rebelled against the Assyrian Empire in 626 B.C. and overthrew the Assyrian capital of Nineveh in October 612 B.C.
 - b. Babylon became the master of the Middle East when it defeated the Egyptian armies at the battle of Carchemish in 605 B.C.
 - c. Daniel was among those taken captive to Babylon that year when Nebuchadnezzar subdued Jerusalem.
 - 1. Daniel ministered for the full duration of the Babylonian captivity as a prophet and a government official.
 - 2. He continued on after Babylon was overcome by the Medes and Persians in 539 B.C.
 - 3. His prophetic ministry was directed to:
 - a. The Gentile court of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar).
 - b. The Gentile court of Persia (Darius and Cyrus)
 - c. To his Jewish countrymen.
 - d. Zerubbabel led a return of the Jews to Jerusalem in the first year of Cyrus. Daniel lived and ministered at least until the third year of Cyrus (536 B.C.). (10:1)
 - e. As Daniel predicted, the Persian Empire continued until Alexander the Great (11:203) who extended the boundaries of the Greek Empire as far east as India.
 - f. The Romans later displaced the Greeks as rulers of the Middle East.
- 12. Daniel 11 alone contains over one hundred specific prophecies of historical events that literally came true.
- 13. The historical accuracy of Daniel being made the third ruler in the kingdom.
 - 1. Nabonidus was away fighting the invading Persians.
 - 2. Belshazzar was reign in Babylon in the absence of his father.
 - 3. Daniel became the third ruler behind (1) Nabonidus, and (2) Belshazzar.
- 14. The Book of Daniel was written to encourage the exiled Jews by revealing God’s sovereign program for Israel during and after the period of Gentile domination.
 - 1. The “Times of the Gentiles” began with the Babylonian captivity and Israel would suffer under Gentile powers for many years.

2. The God who directs the forces of history has not deserted His people.
3. They must continue to trust in Him.
15. Daniel repeatedly emphasizes the sovereignty and power of God over human affairs.
Daniel 4:25 - "The Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."

SUMMARY OF EZEKIEL

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Book of Daniel has been called the "Apocalypse of the Old Testament."
- B. Daniel presents a detailed and comprehensive sweep of prophetic history.
- C. After an introductory chapter in Hebrew, Daniel switches to Aramaic in chapters 2-7 to describe the future course of the Gentile world powers.
- D. While the Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans will come and go, the permanent kingdom (the Church) will be established and will never end.
- E. There are three divisions in the book.
 1. The Personal History of Daniel. (1)
 2. The Prophetic Plan for the Gentiles. (2-7) This section written in Aramaic.
 3. The Prophetic Plan for Israel. (8-12)

THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DANIEL. (1)

- A. Chapter one introduces the book by giving the background and preparation of the prophet.
 1. Daniel is deported along with other promising youths.
 - a. They are placed in an intensive training program in Nebuchadnezzar's court.
 - b. In order to enable them to lose their Jewish identities, their names and diets are changed.
 - c. Daniel's resolve to remain faithful to the Lord is rewarded.
 - d. He and his friends are granted wisdom and knowledge.

THE PROPHETIC PLAN FOR THE GENTILES. (2-7) Written in Aramaic

- A. A key portion of the book.
 1. Chapter 1: Only Daniel can relate and interpret Nebuchadnezzar's disturbing dream of the great image or statue.
 2. Chapter 2: God empowers Daniel to foretell the way in which He will sovereignly raise and depose four Gentile empires.
 - a. Daniel is promoted to be the third ruler in the kingdom.
 3. Chapter 3: Nebuchadnezzar erects a golden image and demands that all bow to it.
 - a. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to do so.
 - b. The persecution and preservation of Daniel's friends in the fiery furnace again illustrate the power of God.
 4. Chapter 4: After Nebuchadnezzar refuses to respond to the warning of his vision of the tree, he is humbled until he acknowledges the supremacy of God and the foolishness of his pride.
 5. Chapter 5: The feast of Belshazzar marks the end of the Babylonian kingdom. Belshazzar is judged because of his arrogant defiance of God.

6. Chapter 6: In the reign of Darius, a plot against Daniel backfires when he is divinely delivered in the den of lions.
 - a. At a minimum, Daniel is at least 82 years old at this time.
 - 621 B, C. Born
 - 605 B.C. Carried away to Babylon at age 16
 - 539 B.C. (October) Persian overthrows Babylon.
 - 621 B.C. minus 539 B.C = 82 years old at time of Babylon's fall.
 - b. Daniel's courageous faith is rewarded, and Darius learns a lesson about the might of the God of Israel.
7. Daniel 7: Daniel's vision of the four beasts.

THE PROPHETIC PLAN FOR ISRAEL. (8-12) Returns to writing in Hebrew

- A. Chapter 8: Daniel's vision of the ram and male goat.
- B. Chapter 9: Daniel's vision of the seventy weeks.
- C. Chapters 10-12: Daniel's vision of Israel's future.