

THE BOOK OF DANIEL
"Daniel, Servant of God"
Daniel 1

Introduction

1. Since at least one-fifth of the Bible content was predictive literature at the time it was written, it behooves us to study prophecy.

2. Yet, many take the attitude that it is too involved and there is so much controversy about it that they will not look into it.

3. We believe prophecy is important to study because: 1) Men are fed up with "informal guesses" and they need knowledge. 2) Men look to the future and the Bible does too. 3) Tomorrow has already captured our imagination; it is well that we let it get hold of our hearts. 4) One fourth of the Bible books are prophetic. To ignore them is to ignore the very Word of God. Hence, we MUST study prophecy (Rev. 1:3).

4. Before we take a long look at this particular book and what God has revealed of His will in it, let us consider the man whom God used to write it... "Daniel, Servant of God." The following facts are known about him:

1. His BIRTH

No knowledge of the early life of the prophet is given us except that which is found in the book under his name. BUT, it is altogether probable that he was born during the revival, Daniel would have come under the influence of:

- a. Reformations 34:3
- b. Rehearsings 34:3
- c. Restorations 34:3

If this suggestion is true, the growth of Daniel was affected by the spiritual climate in which he was planted.

2. His REPUTE

The kind of man he was given witness to by a variety of sources in the Word. Consider these:

- a. His overrulers. Dan. 4:8,9,18; 5:11.

All too frequently these who have the charge over us never recognize nor see the Son of God in us. Not so with Daniel.

- b. His overseers. Dan. 9:20; 10:11,19.
How the angels yearned over him and gave loving testimony to his person.
- c. His overLord. Ezek. 14:14-20; 28:3.
The One with Whom all of us have to do was not niggardly in His consideration of the prophet.

3. His SPIRITUALITY

By this we mean his personal relation with the Lord. Although this important factor is toned down today, God has never put a low premium on it. It was evidenced in Daniel:

- a. In his concern for the Word. Dan. 9: 2, 11,13.
- b. In his desire for prayer. Dan. 2:16,17; 6:10; 9:3; 10:2,12; cf. Psa. 55:17.
- c. In his demonstration of faith. Dan. 1:12, 13; 2:16,45; 6:23; Heb. 11:33.

Conclusion

As one reads the account in the Word concerning Daniel, he cannot but be impressed with the fact that God is after the man and not his work as a prime factor. Too often emphasis is given on accomplishments to the exclusion of the character of a man. It is good to have this witness unto us if the fact that God is interested in calibre and quality. Men of stuff and not stuffings. God give us Daniels!