

Introduction to Daniel's Prophecy

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Fellowship
BIBLE CHURCH

The Book of Daniel

- We see several characteristics of Daniel throughout the book.
- Daniel the Man of God, esp. ch. 1 and 6
 - Holy and steadfast in conduct.
- Daniel the Servant of Kings, ch. 2-6
 - Interpreter of dreams and signs; wise leader.
- Daniel the Prophet of God, esp. ch. 7-12
 - Revealer of world kingdoms.

Characters

- Daniel: wisdom, righteousness, revelation
- Nebuchadnezzar: power, pride, humility (1-4)
- Astrologers: useless (2:10-11, 4:7)
- Belshazzar: pride (5)
- Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego: faithful (3)
- Darius: gullible and impetuous (6)

Characters

- The main character is God.
 - The hand of the Lord is prominent (1:2, 5:23, 9:15)
 - God gives dreams and provides interpretation (2, 4)
 - God protects His people (3=furnace, 6=lions' den)
 - God humbles the proud and orders kingdoms (4-5)
 - God gives revelation of the future (7-12)

Life and Times of Daniel

- Nebuchadnezzar reigned in Babylon 605–562 BC.
 - His first incursion into Judah was in 605 BC.
- Daniel was a teenager, perhaps 18 years of age, when he was taken away to Babylon.
- He lived until at least 536 BC in the reign of Cyrus of Persia, into his late eighties.

Life and Times of Daniel, cont.

- Daniel never returned. From 605 to 536 BC, Daniel experienced the full 70 years of captivity predicted by Jeremiah the prophet
– Jer. 25:11-12, 29:10; Daniel 9:2; Zechariah 1:12.
- First return to Israel led by Zerubbabel in 536 BC

Life and Times: Compared to Jeremiah

- Jeremiah prophesied from 627 to 580 BC in Judah.
 - Daniel was taken in 605; chapters 1-3 happened before 580 BC.
 - Daniel's ministry began some time after Jeremiah but continued long after.
 - See Daniel 9:2, which shows that Daniel had Jeremiah's prophecy (all the way from Judah).

Life and Times: Compared to Ezekiel

- Ezekiel prophesied 592 to 571 BC in Babylon.
 - Ezekiel was taken to Babylon in 597 BC during Nebuchadnezzar's second incursion to Israel.
 - His ministry is wholly contained inside the time period of Daniel's ministry.
 - By that time, even though Daniel was in his early 50s, he was renowned for his righteousness and wisdom.
 - See Ezekiel 14:13-20 and 28:3 for references to Daniel.

Mentioned by Jesus

- See Matthew 24:15
- Daniel and his book are favorably mentioned by the Lord. Daniel's prophetic accuracy is thus confirmed.
- See also Mark 13:14.