

Outline of Daniel

The book of Daniel is not a book of the historical section of the canon: it is better categorized with the prophets. However, in chronological terms, it falls between 2 Chronicles 36:5 and 36:22 and (for the most part) before Ezra and Nehemiah. It records some historical details of that time period of the captivity of the southern kingdom and offers a number of prophecies and interpretations of those prophecies that concern the Gentile nations as well as the nation of Israel.

- I. Daniel's rise to fame in Babylon..... 1:1-21
- II. Prophecies concerning the Gentiles2:1-7:28
 - A. The dream of the statue and its interpretation2:1-49
 - B. The three friends and the fiery furnace3:1-30
 - C. The dream of the tree, its interpretation and fulfillment4:1-37
 - D. The end of Babylonian rule and start of Medo-Persian5:1-31
 - E. Daniel and the lion's den.....6:1-28
 - F. The vision of the four beasts and its interpretation 7:1-28
- III. Prophecies concerning Israel.....8:1-12:13
 - A. The vision of the ram and male goat and its interpretation.....8:1-27
 - B. Daniel's prayer and the prophecy of the 70 weeks9:1-27
 - C. The vision by the Tigris River and Israel's persecution...10:1-12:13

Notes

- ❑ Daniel's prophecies are perhaps the most detailed in the Bible. The prophecy of chapter 11 in particular has already been fulfilled in all of its many details. The prophecy of 9:24-27 has been, so far, fulfilled in a remarkable way.
- ❑ The fulfillment of Daniel 9:24-27 commenced in 444 B.C. according to Neh 2:1-8.
- ❑ Daniel was written between 605 and 539 B.C. and its prophecies cover from 444 B.C. to the end of human history.
- ❑ The visions of Daniel 2 and 7 are parallel, that is, they have the same basic interpretation. The main movers and shakers in world history, according to these visions, were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Rome will come back in revived form during the tribulation.
- ❑ Whitcomb helpfully gives the theme of the book of Daniel as "God's Rule" – over the Gentile nations and over Israel. This picks up the idea of Daniel 4:34-35, where God "does according to his will...among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand..."
- ❑ It is crucial to properly understand the book of Daniel to understand the book of Revelation.
- ❑ There is a wealth of examples in the book of Daniel as well. Consider: 1:8, 3:17-18, 6:10, Daniel's study of the Scriptures in 9:2 and its result, the prayer of chapter 9.