

Daniel

Of all the prophetic books, Daniel is likely the most known of them all. We've grown up hearing stories about the fiery furnace and the lion's den. Later we learned about God's kingdom and the handwriting on the wall. For the next few weeks we will walk through this wonderful and powerful book. There are many parallels to our times.

Each week we will cover one chapter in Daniel. Your assignment is to read the chapter and then download the outline for your study. Next time: DANIEL 1

The Value of Daniel to Us:

1. Daniel shows us how to live _____ in _____ times
 - Daniel was a godly man who was sent to live in the ungodly world capital of Babylon
 - When Ezekiel, a contemporary, used three examples of righteous men he chose Job, Noah and DANIEL
2. Daniel was under pressure to _____ His faith was not respected nor tolerated.
3. The world seemed to be _____

Jeremiah (627-582): Jerusalem with poor people

Ezekiel (593-571): Babylon with exiles

Daniel (605-536): Babylon with king

THE BACKGROUND

A. The Setting of Daniel is Babylon

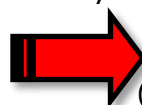
1. Judah was punished by God for idolatry and faithlessness
2. For 70 years they would be in captivity
 - the city of Jerusalem was destroyed
 - the temple was ransacked and burned
3. Babylon was the instrument of God to accomplish this (Hab 1:5-11)

Three Waves of Attacks & Invasions

605 B.C. First wave of captives taken (Daniel)
597 B.C. Majority of captives taken (Ezekiel)
586 B.C. Jerusalem destroyed

2 Kings 24:8-16 the king and more than 10,000 citizens take captive (Ps 137)

- God's intentions while they are captive (Jer 29:5-7)
- Many of the ancestral records were lost (Ezra 2:62)



Contemporaries

(Daniel refers to Jeremiah—Dan 9:2)

B. The book of Daniel begins covers the Babylonian captivity (ch 1-5) **PLUS** the beginning of Medo-Persian reign

1. Daniel has very little contact with the people of God. His message is not of reform
2. Although the message is for God's people, it is showing the kings of that God rules about all kingdoms. Even though the people of God had been defeated, God was not defeated
3. In the Jewish Bible there are three sections:
 - Torah (law)
 - Prophets
 - Writings—this is where Daniel is found

Miracles In Daniel

1. Salvation from fiery furnace
2. Mysterious hand writing on wall
3. Divine dreams interpreted
4. Protection from lions
5. Nebuchadnezzar eating like ox

Jesus referred to Daniel as a prophet (Mt 24:15)

4. Daniel is divided into two sections
 - ch 1-6 historical
 - ch 7-12 visions

Did You Know:

Daniel was not a teenager in the lion's den

Language

Daniel 1:1-2:4a in Hebrew
Daniel 2:4b-7:21 in Aramaic (language of Babylon)
Daniel 8:1-12:13 in Hebrew

C. The Book of Daniel is a book of great Hope

1. Dan 2:44-46 God's kingdom will endure forever
2. Dan 7:26-27 God's kingdom will reign over all other kingdoms
3. Dan 9:24 God's promise to deliver His people

4. Daniel is a man of great faith
 - He confesses his sins (9:4, 20)

Great Names We Are Introduced to:

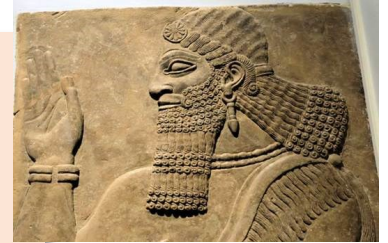
Gabriel (8:16; 9:20, 21)
Michael (10:13, 21; 12:1)
Ancient of Days (7:9, 13, 22)

Nabopolassar declares independence from Assyria (626 B.C.)
- with help from Medes, Nineveh is captured in 612 B.C.

Josiah: last good king of Judah was killed by Egyptians in 609 B.C.
(2 Kg 23:29)

- His son, Jehoahaz reigned for 3 months (imprisoned by Pharaoh –2 Kg 23:31-34)
- Jehoahaz' brother, Eliakim (name changed to Jehoiakim) was made king by Pharaoh (609-598 B.C.)

1. The siege of Jerusalem took place in his 3rd year (605 B.C.)
2. Babylonian king Nabopolassar dies and his son Nebuchadnezzar becomes king
3. Jehoiakim dies in 598
 - his son, Coniah rules for 3 months
 - he is taken captive by Babylon
4. Zedekiah is appointed by Nebuchadnezzar (596-586)
 - he rebels against Babylon
 - city is destroyed in 586



For Next Time:

1. How did the Babylonians try to change the Hebrews?
2. In what ways do you see God with His people in this chapter?
3. What difference are there in the names of Daniel and Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego?