

The Book of Daniel--an Overview

Daniel (*God is my Judge*) was taken captive to Babylon from Nebuchadnezzar's first assault on Jerusalem in 605 B.C. He was ~16 years old & lived until at least the third year of Cyrus in 536 B.C. The book bridges the gap between the OT historical books & the NT with details found nowhere else in Scripture.

Understanding the end-time prophecies included are essential for understanding the book of Revelation.

- Daniel persuaded the chief steward to allow he & his 3 friends to be fed vegetables & water rather than be defiled by food offered to idols; as a result, they were actually healthier than any other captives.
 - When Nebuchadnezzar had a dream which he refused to divulge, Daniel credited God for revealing the dream & interpretation to him--Babylon, Persia, Greece & Rome would be followed by the kingdom of heaven!
 - Nebuchadnezzar commanded worship of a 90-foot gold statue, but Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego refused, so they were thrown into a fiery furnace & were seen walking with a fourth--likely the preincarnate Christ.
 - Daniel again credited God for interpretation of another dream of Nebuchadnezzar--whereby his pride would lead to his being struck with insanity until he would acknowledge God as the Most High who rules over all.
 - Years later, Daniel interpreted the "writing on the wall" for then co-regent Belshazzar, telling him that the Babylonian kingdom would be given to the Medes & Persians, which happened later that very night.
 - All the major officials conspired for an irreversible kingly decree that would condemn Daniel for praying to God--Daniel was cast into a den of lions, but he was unharmed & all the conspirators took his place to death.
 - Daniel has several visions that 1) foretold kingdoms to follow; 2) trials for Israel; 3) the "seventy weeks" timeline for the coming of the Messiah & His being "cut off;" 4) wars; & 5) a future ruler who would make a 7-year covenant with Israel only to break it after 3.5 years with great tribulation, followed by the judgment.
- ⇒ God is in sovereign control of history; we know His prophecies are true because of all those already fulfilled!