

BOOK OF DANIEL OVERVIEW

CHAPTERS

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1 Hebrew Captives Pass the Test

- Daniel taken captive to Babylon (Is.39:6-7).
- Gentiles now control Jerusalem.
- Daniel and companions pass 10 day test.

2 Image of Gold, Silver, Bronze, Iron, Iron Mixed with Clay

- Nebuchadnezzar's dream of statue representing Gentiles kingdoms that would dominate Israel.
- Daniel interprets the king's dream showing great spiritual courage and dependence upon God.
- Nebuchadnezzar recognized the God of Israel is the God of gods.

3 Gold Image and Fiery Furnace

- Nebuchadnezzar, motivated by pride and power demanded all people to worship the image to honor him above all gods.
- Daniel and his companions remain faithful to God; put into the fire and yet are delivered by God.

4 Nebuchadnezzar's Testimony of the Tree Vision

- Nebuchadnezzar has a dream of the greatest tree on earth, that is cut down, yet the stump remains for 7 years. Tree represents Neb. in his power. Neb. would be removed from his rule until he recognizes that God raises and lowers rulers (4:25).
- After 7 years Neb. recognizes and repents to God, and he is restored to power.

5 Belshazzar's Party and Hand Writing on the Wall

- Belshazzar (son of Nabonidus and grandson of Nebuchadnezzar).
- Belshazzar has a party and the Handwriting on the Wall occurs (539 BC).
- Median army diverted the Euphrates River that night and Cyrus took over Babylon.

6 Jealousy and Den of Lions Under Medo-Persian Rule

- Daniel was a "Jew" which was favored by the king.
- Regional rulers resented Daniel and entrapped him using his faithfulness toward God against him.
- God honored Daniel's faith and delivered him and his companions him from the lions.

7 4-Beast Dream (Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece, Rome)

- Daniel has a vision of 4 great beasts (Lion with wings representing Babylon; a Bear with ribs in his mouth representing Medo-Persia; a Leopard with 4 wings and 4 heads representing Greece; a Terrible unrecognized beast with 10 horns and a little horn growing up among the 10 representing Rome).
- Daniel's vision turns when Ancient of Days (God the Father) sits in judgment on the 4th beast.
- 3 kingdoms simply failed (v.11-12), but the 4th is destroyed before the Son of Man comes to rule the world and Gentile dominion over Israel comes to an end.

8 Ram and the Goat (Medo-Persian & Greek Empire)

- Daniel receives a vision of the second and third kingdoms. The ram with 2 horns (v3-4) is Medo-Persia; the goat with the horn is Greece. The horn is Alexander the Great (v21).
- When Alexander died (323BC) his kingdom was divided among his 4 generals (Da.8:5, 8, 21-22; 11:4).
- Out of these 4 parts the Syrian king, Antiochus Epiphanes IV (ruled from 175-164BC, Da.11:21-35), arises and desecrates the temple in Jerusalem (169-165 BC).
- Antiochus Epiphanes is a prototype of the coming "Antichrist" whom the Messiah will defeat (Da.8:23-25).

9 Confession and 70 Weeks Determined For Israel

- Daniel reads Jeremiah 25:11-12 and 29:10 and understands the Babylonian captivity is coming to an end (Da.9:1-2).
- The angel Gabriel responds to Daniel's prayer.
- There are 3 decrees: (1) Cyrus (537) to rebuild the temple (Ez.1:2-4; 6:3-5; (2) Artaxerxes (458BC) which provided money and supplies for the temple (Ez.7:11-26). (3) Artaxerxes (444BC) that gave Nehemiah authority to return to Jerusalem to restore the city, gates, and walls (Ne.2:1-8). Yet none of these meet the requirements of Gabriel's message to Daniel.
- The 70 Weeks started with Artaxerxes' decree in 444 BC.
- Between the 69th and 70th week there is a gap of time which accommodates what Paul calls the mystery of the church (Ep.3:1-13).

10 Angel Teaches Daniel about the Angelic Conflict

- While Daniel was praying for three weeks an angel came to him. The angel has a duty in Persia and wanted to come to Daniel when he first prayed, but was prevented from a fallen angel. Michael had to come to the angel's aid.

11 Future Rulers and Wars

- Da.11:1-35 predict the successive empires from Darius (Da.6). Da.11:36-45 predict the final dictator of the last Gentile empire (Rome) during the 70th Week.
- Da.11:2-3 reference 3 Persian kings (Cambyses, Pseudo-Smerdis, and Darius I Hystaspes). They ruled from 530BC to 486BC. Xerxes (486-465BC) is the next king who ruled during the time of Esther.
- Alexander's kingdom at his death divided into four parts (Da.8:5,8,21-22; 11:4). (1) Ptolemy I Soter (Ptolemies) took Egypt; (2) Antipater and then Cassander took Macedonia and Greece; (3) Lysimachus took Thrace and Asia Minor; (4) Seleucus I Nicator (Seleucids) took Babylon and Syria.

12 Resurrection, 3 1/2 Years, and the End

- Details are given concerning the 70th Week. Then some interval days provide some clarity from the abomination of desolation till the beginning the Christ's kingdom rule on the earth.