

## THE BOOK OF DANIEL

About eight years before Ezekiel was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar, a young man named Daniel was taken from Jerusalem to Babylon by the same king. Daniel was young, intelligent, skillful in wisdom (1:4). He is one of the few men about whom God says only good. Three times he is referred to as "the greatly beloved" one (9:23; 10:11, 19). Daniel was taken into captivity with three other young men whom you know better by their Babylonian names: Shadrach Meshach and Abednego. The name "Daniel" means "God is judge".

### **The Book**

Daniel is the Old Testament "Apocalypse" while Revelation is the New Testament "Apocalypse". The word "Apocalypse" simply means "an unveiling of the secret purposes of God". These secret purposes of God can never be known until they are revealed by God. In the Book of Daniel the secret purpose of God is mainly unveiled by visions. The word "vision" or "visions" appears thirty two times.

Much of the theme of Daniel finds its fulfillment in the New Testament: 1) The manifestation of the man of sin. 2) The great tribulation. 3) The return of the Lord. 4) The resurrections and the judgements.

Daniel is distinctly the prophet of the "times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24). His vision covers the entire course of Gentile world rule to its end and on to the Messianic Kingdom of our Lord.

### **The Central Truth**

"That the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whomsoever He will". See 4:17, 25, 32. This theme is much like Ezekiel's which is the other Book of the captivity. Ezekiel's theme is "They shall know that I am Jehovah".

### **The Structure of the Book**

HISTORY - Chapters 1-6

PROPHECY - Chapters 7-12

The historical section reveals God's plan to Daniel and all of that plan speaks of the immediate future and actually took place. But these six Chapters are not only history but they look to a future fulfillment as well. Example: Chapter 3 recounts the story of the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace but it is also a picture of Israel in the furnace of tribulation. Chapter 2 is Nebuchadnezzar's dream and most of that is history but it looks to the end of the "times of the Gentiles".

The Prophetic section (7-12) deals with the events of this age and the events of the end time.

### **The Books of Daniel and REvelation**

To fully understand the Book of Daniel it is necessary to compare it to the Book of Revelation and vice versa. Both men were loved of the Lord and saw the visions God gave them while in exile; Daniel, a captive in Babylon and John on the Isle of Patmos. Five times in Revelation we read that it is a prophecy (Revelation 1:3, 22:7, 10,18,19). Daniel is a prophet and Jesus referred to him as such in Matthew 24:15.

So much that was sealed in Daniel is unsealed in Revelation. Compare Daniel 12:8-9 to Revelation 5:1-5. What was hidden from the eyes of Daniel is made plain in Revelation.

### **Nebuchadnezzar's Dream and Daniel's Vision - Chapters 2-7**

God gave Nebuchadnezzar a dream; a prophetic outline for the future history of world powers (Chapter 2).

Sixty years later Daniel had a vision, also called a dream(7:1) concerning the same world powers. We will look at Chapters 2 and 7 together.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM	
The Setting	2:1-30
The Dream	2:31-35
The Interpretation	2:36-45
The Results	2:46-49

The two prophetic dreams should be compared so you will always remember their their meaning.

DANIEL'S DREAM	
The Setting	7:1
The Dream	7:2-14 & 21-22
The Interpretation	7:15-26
The Results	7:27-28

NEBUCHADNEZZAR	
His Dream - Image	Daniel 2:31-35 (29)
"What shall come to pass hereafter"	
Head (38) Gold	
Breast and Arms - Silver	2:32, 39a
Belly and Thighs-Brass	(2:39b)
Legs and Feet - Iron	(2:40)
10 Toes (2:41-42)	
The Stone (2:34-35, 45)	
The Mountain - (2:35)	

Fulfillment	
World Powers	
Babylon	
Medo-Persia	
Greece	
Rome	
Old Roman Empire	
Anti-Christ	
Christ	
Millennial Kingdom	

DANIEL	
His Vision - 4 Beasts	Daniel 7:1-27 (18)
"The saints shall take the kingdom forever"	
Lion (7:4)	
Bear (7:5)	
Leapord (7:6)	
Diverse Beast	(7:7, 19)
10 Horns - (7:7, 20)	
Little Horn - (7:8, 21)	
Ancient of Days (7:22)	
Everlasting Kingdom (7:27)	

The four kingdoms symbolized by the great image and the beasts were literal kingdoms. It follows that the Stone Kingdom which is to take place is also a literal kingdom: the Millennial Kingdom of our Lord Jesus the King.

Read and compare **Psalms 118:22-23** and **Luke 20:17-18**.

King Nebuchadnezzar erects a gold image to perpetuate himself (**chapter 3**). He demanded the people to worship the image and the three Hebrew children refused to obey and were cast into the fiery furnace; God made the flames harmless (25). The fourth person is \_\_\_\_\_.

In **Hebrews 11:33-34** we understand the "through faith" we are saved.

In **Chapter 4** Nebuchadnezzar has a dream of a Great Tree. Daniel interprets the dream and it came to pass exactly as God revealed it to Daniel (**4:19-28**). The king was stricken with madness for seven years (representing the tribulation). The stump was spared and after seven years sprouted (**14-37**). The fulfilment is found in the Gentile nations whose "knee shall bow" and they shall seek the Lord (**Acts 15:14-18**).

In **Chapter 5** we find the account of the handwriting on the wall and the interpretation of it.

In **Chapter 6** we find Daniel in the Lion's Den and the deliverance of God. We also see that because of his faith in God, Daniel received a promotion (**126-28**).

In **Chapter 8** we have the details of the second and third kingdoms: Medo-Persia and Greece.

### Daniel's Seventy Weeks - Chapter 9

This is one of the chapters in the Bible where there can be no misunderstanding because it is clearly given by Gabriel (21) by Divine revelation. In **9:24-27** we have the revelation.

**70 Weeks or 70 X 7 = 490 years.** Please view **Jeremiah 25:11-12** and **Leviticus 26:33-34** and you will see the significance.

Scripture divides these 70 weeks into three divisions with a parenthesis (the church age) in between. In **vs. 25 - 7 weeks (49 years)** began at the

"Commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (Ezra 1; 6 and Nehemiah 2) and that actually happened as we saw in our study of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Add to the 7 weeks (49 years) another 62 weeks (434 years) - until the Messiah was cut off (crucified) - 9:26.

So far we have 69 weeks of years but between the 69th and 70th there is an interlude (a parenthesis) that is the Church Age. Notice that in 9:27 we find that "in the middle of the week" the covenant made with Israel is broken by the anti-christ. The final seven year period is the Tribulation, divided into two 3 1/2 year periods, known in Scripture as 3 1/2 years, 42 months or 1260 days. At the end of all of the 70 weeks (after the tribulation) Christ will literally return. The 70th week has not yet begun but it is coming soon (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

7 Weeks	62 Weeks	Church Age	1 Week	
49 years	434 years	not seen by	7 years	<b>Second Coming</b>
		prophets	3 1/2 - 3 1/2	
		<b>Messiah cut off</b>		

To close the Book we see the Vision of the Glory of God, that is, the final vision and the final mysteries in the last three chapters of prophecy.

FOR NEXT WEEK:  
 READ HOSEA, JOEL AND AMOS  
 KEY CHAPTERS: HOSEA 1-4, 6, 13, 14  
 JOEL 1-3  
 AMOS 2, 3, 5, 8, 9