

A Study of The Book Of DANIEL



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HWY 157 Church of Christ

INTRODUCTION

Purpose: The Book of Daniel told of the coming Messiah in a kingdom that will last forever. But the book's primary purpose seems to have been to show the sovereignty of God as He deals with kingdoms and nations.

Authorship: The Book of Daniel was written by Daniel. He was of noble descent, taken to Babylon after Judah fell to Nebuchadnezzar in the third year of Jehoiakim's reign, 606 B.C. Throughout the book, Daniel spoke in the first person and claimed to have received divine revelations. Near the end of the book, Daniel is told to seal and preserve the book. This should be proof enough that Daniel was the author of the book that bears his name.

However, it should also be noted that some have challenged Daniel's authorship. Those who do so almost always are people who question the Bible as God's only word. They raise points within the text and want to conclude God does not inspire the book. In the case of the book of Daniel, we will briefly look at an example of a reason some have questioned it, explain, and then look at the strongest reason to believe the book was inspired by God.

Why do some doubt? In Daniel 1:1, he wrote that Jerusalem was attacked and Jehoiakim was defeated in the third year of his reign, while Jeremiah 25:1 shows there had been no attack by the fourth year of Jehoiakim's reign.

The answer to this objection is simple. Daniel was writing in a Babylonian setting. Therefore, they reckoned years differently from the Palestinians of Jeremiah's setting.

“The year in which the king ascended the throne was designated on the Babylonian system not the first year, but “the year of accession to the kingdom.” Hence, in mentioning the third year of Jehoiakim, Daniel references the same year that Jeremiah calls the fourth. This point may be illustrated as follows:

<i>Training</i>	<i>Babylonian</i>	<i>Palestinian</i>
1 st	Year of Accession	First Year
2 nd	First Year	Second Year
3 rd	Second Year	Third Year
	Third Year	Fourth Year” ¹

After the quote above, Mr. Young made a passing note that this only helps prove the book's genuineness in reality. Though Daniel was familiar with Jeremiah 25:1, he still used the method he was accustomed to, the Babylonian method.

What evidence leads us to believe God inspired the Book of Daniel? The most decisive fact is that Jesus Christ quoted from the book. All we need to do is cross-reference Matthew 24:15 with Daniel 9:27 to see that Jesus accepted the words of Daniel. Thus, it is not reasonable to believe Christ would use the book as if inspired when it was not, or that He would not have known it was uninspired.

Style: The Book of Daniel has sections written in an unusual style, known as apocalyptic. The word “apocalyptic” is a Greek compound word meaning an unveiling. The Old Testament has some of this style in two other books, Ezekiel and Zechariah; also, the New Testament book of Revelation is replete with this style. An obvious question comes to mind, what is the difference between apocalyptic writing and prophecy? For one thing, the content differs, “. . . in apocalyptic writings the references are wider and the messianic hope more defined.”² In prophecy, the past is less significant as the present and future move out of it. But in apocalyptic writing, the past and present play a broader role as it moves to the future. Their content also differs in their dealing

with Eschatology. The prophets dealt with little beyond the grave and mainly with the nation of Israel and the Gentiles.

The other main difference between prophecy and apocalyptic writing is form. "Both make use of visions, but in prophecy in the more restricted sense of the word these visions are as a rule implied rather than described . . . In the case of apocalypses the vision is the vehicle by which the prediction is conveyed . . . In prophecy the symbols used are always natural; in apocalyptic, they are largely arbitrary."³ Also, concerning symbols, prophecy used them in natural ways, i.e., Ezekiel's use of "the valley of dry bones," Ezekiel 37. But symbols are arbitrary in apocalyptic writing, i.e., Daniel's use of animals and the strange changes in them.

[End Notes]

1 Edward J. Young, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, (W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich.), p.365.

2 Ray Summers, *Worthy is the Lamb* (Broadman Press, Nashville, Tenn.), p.6.

3 Summers, p.8.

An Overview of The Book Of Daniel

Chapter ONE

- I. Daniel was carried into Babylonian captivity.
- II. The test of food.
- III. The test of wisdom.

Chapter TWO

- I. Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- II. The wise men fail to tell the dream.
- III. Daniel is willing to declare the dream.

Chapter THREE

- I. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to worship the golden image.
- II. They are cast in the furnace and are joined by another "like the Son of God" and live.

Chapter FOUR

- I. Another dream interpreted to Nebuchadnezzar by Daniel.
- II. The king is temporarily deranged by God because of self-deification.

Chapter FIVE

- I. Handwriting on the wall at a riotous feast, Belshazzar now rules Babylon.
- II. The writing is interpreted and fulfilled.

Chapter SIX

- I. A trap is set for Daniel.
- II. Daniel in the lion's den.
- III. God delivers Daniel.

Chapter SEVEN

- I. Four beasts represent four world Powers.
- II. The judgment to befall them.

Chapter EIGHT

- I. Vision of a ram and he-goat.
- II. Vision interpreted.

Chapter NINE

- I. The "70 weeks."
- II. Kingdom of God.

Chapters TEN - TWELVE

- I. Visions of Persian, Grecian, and Roman power.
- II. Completion of the kingdom of God.

Chapter ONE



I. Daniel carried Into Babylonian captivity.

A. Nebuchadnezzar against Jerusalem.

1. The defeat of Judah was God's doing because of their idolatry.
2. The vessels here will be mentioned again in ch.5.

B. Royalty and nobility were set apart for training in the king's service.

1. The removal of royalty served two purposes.
2. Note: “children of Israel” and “children of Judah” are used interchangeably, verses three and six.
3. The meanings of the names given to the four Jews.
4. They were to be given a diet of the king's food,

II. The test of food.

A. Daniel asked not to be fed the king's food. The request was granted.

1. His purpose was to avoid defilement.
2. The commander of the eunuchs expressed fear.
3. Daniel proposed a test.

B. The results of the test.

III. The test of wisdom.

A. The men grow in wisdom.

B. They are appointed to the king's service.

C. Note: verse twenty-one simply tells that Daniel served the next kingdom.

Review Questions

1. Who was responsible for the fall of Jehoiakim?
2. What were the qualifications for training in the Chaldean tongue?

3. What was involved in the training of the men?
4. What were the Chaldean and Jewish names of our four main characters?
5. How would Daniel have defiled himself?
6. What did the chief eunuch fear?
7. After the test, what was the physical appearance of the four?
8. How thoroughly did the king test them?
9. What were Nebuchadnezzar's findings?
10. Thought question: what values are you pressured to compromise?

Chapter TWO



I. Nebuchadnezzar has a dream and makes a demand.

- A. After having a dream, he called together those who interpreted his dreams.
- B. The king demanded to be told the dream and interpretation.

II. The wise men failed to tell the dream.

- A. The wise men could not answer him and faced death.
- B. They were right; it was something only God could do.
- C. The king then ordered the death of all the wise men in Babylon.

III. Daniel was willing to declare the dream.

- A. Prayer was offered to God about this matter.
- B. God revealed the dream and meaning to Daniel.
- C. Daniel revealed to the king that God is the only one who can make these things known.

IV. Daniel tells the dream and its interpretation.

- A. The great image is described to the king.
- B. The meaning of the parts.
- C. The kingdoms—*see page five*.
- D. Points in the verses to be viewed:
 - 1. “without hands.”
 - 2. “became a great mountain.”
 - 3. “the kingdom shall be divided.”
 - 4. “the days of these kings.”

V. Their promotion.

- A. The king worships Daniel and praises God.
- B. Daniel is rewarded.
- C. Daniel's reaction asked that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be set over affairs.

Three views of the interpretations of the kingdoms:

View 1

1. Babylon
2. Media
3. Persia
4. Greece

View 2

1. Babylon
2. Medo-Persia
3. Greece
4. Rome:
Part one –
Old Roman Empire
Part two –
Revived in 20th C.

View 3

1. Babylon
2. Medo-Persia
3. Greece
4. Rome

Reasons for each view:

View 1

1. Daniel written during Maccabean days.
2. The book was history, not predictive.

View 2

1. Literal interpretation of all O.T. prophecies.
2. Ten toes are the ten horns of Dan.7:7.

View 3

1. Jesus' claim to fulfillment. Mk.1:15
2. Kingdom was to be established in days of Roman rule.
3. It fits history.
4. Mark 9:1

Reasons to reject each view:

View 1

1. Daniel did not view Median kingdom after Babylon, Dan.5:28-31; 6:8,12,15.
2. The Messianic kingdom would have had to come during Greek rule.
3. Jesus used Daniel as predictive, Mt.24.

View 2

1. It demands that we reject Jesus' word in Mk.1:15;9:1 and wait until the 20th Century for its fulfillment
2. No proof that "toes" "horns."
 - a. Dan.7:7,8,20,24
 - b. eleventh toe????

View 3

1. Messianic kingdom was to be sudden.
2. Military conquest of image.
3. Church did not fill whole earth.

Answers to objects of each view:

View 1

View 2

View 3

1. Text says nothing of "sudden" kingdom.
2. No mention of military conquest.
3. Col.1:6,23 teaches the kingdom went unto the whole earth.

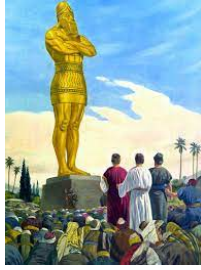
Review Questions

11. Why would the king not tell his wise men the dream that troubled him?
12. What was involved in the king's punishment or reward concerning the dream?
13. What defense did the wise men use before the king?
14. What does the wise men's ignorance prove?
15. When Daniel learned of the king's decree from Arioch, what did he do?
16. After God revealed the matter to Daniel, what did he say God's part is regarding kings?
17. When brought before the king, what contrast does Daniel make between the wise men and God?
18. Describe the image in the king's dream.

19. What caused the image to be "were crushed together"^(NKJV)?
20. How many kingdoms are represented in the image, what are they?

21. Which kingdom was divided?
22. Does this division change the number of kingdoms involved in the dream?
23. What do the part iron and part clay represent?
24. Are the toes called kingdoms?
25. In which kingdom do "these kings" of verse forty-four belong?
26. Who would set up a kingdom, and what would be its characteristics?
27. What do you think the stone represents?
28. After hearing the dream and interpretation, what did the king acknowledge about God?
29. What was Daniel's reward; what did he request?

Chapter THREE



I. Nebuchadnezzar commanded self-deification.

- A. He erected an idol to worship.
- B. Failure to obey would bring death.

II. Three refused to worship.

- A. Chaldeans reported Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego's failure to worship.
- B. The three defended their inaction.
- C. The fiery furnace.

III. The king's reaction to the deliverance.

- A. Nebuchadnezzar praised God.
- B. The king's decree.

Review Questions

30. Describe what Nebuchadnezzar built on the plain of Dura?
31. What was to occur at the music's sounding? What would happen to those who failed to do so?
32. What was the accusation of the Chaldeans, and who specifically was it directed against?
33. What was the question from the king about their deliverance?
34. In your own words, how did they answer the question?
35. Besides the command to increase the furnace's heat, what happened to prove it had been made hotter?
36. What did the king see when he looked into the furnace?

37. To what extent had God protected them?
38. What decree did Nebuchadnezzar make concerning God?
39. What happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
40. Thought question: what “fiery furnace” test might we face today?

Chapter FOUR



- I. Nebuchadnezzar has another dream.**
- A. His advisors failed again to interpret a dream.
 - B. The great tree dream.
 - C. Daniel was called to interpret the dream.
- II. The interpretation.**
- A. Nebuchadnezzar was the tree.
 - B. The king would be cut off from his kingdom.
- III. The fulfillment of the dream.**
- A. Nebuchadnezzar boasted of his importance.
 - B. He was driven to live like an animal.
- IV. Nebuchadnezzar’s humble return.**
- A. The king praised and honored God.
 - B. The kingdom was returned to him.

Review Questions

41. Why was Daniel called before the king to interpret the dream?
42. Describe the dream.
43. What was the significance of the tree?
44. What was to happen to the king, and why?
45. In your own words, what did the king say just before the voice from Heaven spoke to him?
46. In your own words, what did the king say after his ordeal?
47. Thought question: what is your greatest pitfall of pride?

Chapter FIVE



I. Belshazzar was found wanting.

- A. The king's misuse of the temple vessels.
- B. The writing on the wall.

II. The interpretation and fulfillment.

- A. Daniel was called to interpret.
- B. The prophecy was fulfilled, Babylon fell to Darius the Mede.

Review Questions

48. For what did Belshazzar use the vessels of the temple of Jerusalem?

49. What event changed the king's countenance?
50. What did Belshazzar offer to the one who could interpret the writing?
51. Why did the queen think Daniel could interpret the writing?
52. In your own words, what had been given Nebuchadnezzar and who had given it?
53. Was this information new to Belshazzar?
54. How had the king lifted his hand against God?
55. Interpret these words: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.
56. What happened to Belshazzar and his kingdom?
57. Thought question: what holy possession from God might you misuse?

Chapter SIX



I. The plot against Daniel.

- A. The governors and satraps wanted rid of Daniel.
- B. Darius' unwitting trap, anyone who “petitions any god or man for thirty days,” other than Darius, will be cast into the lions’ den.
- C. Daniel is trapped.

II. Daniel in the den of lions.

- A. The king ordered Daniel to the lion's den.
- B. The king’s plea, “Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.”
- C. Daniel was protected.

III. Reversed plans.

- A. The enemies are punished.
- B. Daniel prospers.

Review Questions

58. What was Daniel's position in Darius' court?
59. What caused the other officials to conspire against Daniel?
60. What was the trap set by these men, and why did they think it to be foolproof?
61. What were Darius' last words to Daniel before the stone was laid over the mouth of the den?
62. What was the similarity between those words and the words of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in 3:17?
63. What was the first question Darius asked in the morning?
64. In your own words, how did Daniel respond?
65. What happened to those who had tried to trap Daniel?
66. What was Darius' decree concerning God?
67. Thought question: what are some efforts today to turn people from worshipping God?

Chapter SEVEN



I. Daniel's dream of four world powers.

- A. The four beasts.
- B. The judgment of the four beasts.
- C. The kingdom and the King.

II. The interpretation.

- A. The four beasts are four kingdoms.
- B. The victory of the saints of the Most High.

Review Questions

68. With a Bible dictionary or concordance, define “dream” and “visions” in verse one.
69. What was stirring the sea?
70. From where did the beasts come?
71. In your own words, describe with the first beast looked like and what happened to it.
72. Do the same for the second and third.
73. Describe the fourth beast.
74. What action showed this beast’s power?
75. What did he see while considering the horns?
76. Describe the Ancient of days.

77. Give the order in which these events occurred in verses nine through fourteen, 1 being first, etc.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ___ the horn spoke great words | ___ prolonging of the other beasts' lives |
| ___ the beast was slain | ___ all people serve him |
| ___ the beast was given to the burning
flame | ___ his kingdom shall not be destroyed |
| ___ one like the Son of man came to the
Ancient of days | ___ one like the Son of man came with
the clouds |
| ___ the books were opened | ___ Son of man given dominion |
| | ___ the judgment was set |

78. What was Daniel's reaction to these visions?

79. What did the beasts represent?

80. What would the saints do?

81. What did the fourth beast do to his enemies?

82. Describe the appearance of the eleventh horn.

83. What did this horn do?

84. What stopped the horn?

85. What did the horns represent?

86. What would the eleventh king do?

87. What would happen to his kingdom?

88. How did this affect Daniel, and what did he do with it?

Chapter Eight



I. Two kingdoms: the Medo-Persian, and Greek.

1. Third year of Belshazzar's reign.
 2. In the city of Shushan.
- B. The vision.
1. A ram with two horns.
 2. A he-goat in the west.
 3. How long?
- C. The interpretation.
1. Daniel was afraid, but Gabriel was sent to explain.
 2. Medo-Persians' kings are shown in the two horns.
 3. The Greeks.
- D. The vision is to be closed.

Review Questions

89. Where was Daniel when he had this vision?
90. What was strange about the horns on the ram he saw?
91. What did he see this ram doing?
92. Describe the he-goat and his coming.
93. What did the he-goat do to the ram?

94. What happened when the he-goat's horn broke?
95. What and who was to be trodden under foot?
96. How long before the sanctuary was to be cleansed?
97. What was the time frame for this vision?
98. Who did each animal represent?
99. Describe the king to who "shall stand."
100. What would happen when this king stood against the Prince of princes?

Chapter NINE



I. Daniel's knowledge of Jeremiah.

- B. Jeremiah 25:11-12 & 29:10
- C. This reading was at about 536 B.C.

II. Daniel prays to God about behavior of Israel.

- A. He confesses the iniquity of Israel.
- B. "As what has been done to Jerusalem." (NKJV)
- C. Both the city and temple are desolate.
- D. He pleads throughout for mercy.

III. Gabriel is sent to him.

- A. Gabriel comes to him during the evening offering.
- B. The purpose for coming was to give understanding.

IV. The seventy weeks, two views.

- A. Chronological View;

1. Non-millennial
2. Premillennial view.

B. Symbolical View:

1. The number seven can mean completeness, totality, or perfection.
2. The time must cover from the decree to the fall of Jerusalem.
3. The first seven weeks - time to build the city.
4. Sixty-two weeks - near the end.
5. In the midst of the seventieth week - Christ's death.

C. The text.

Review Questions

101. How did Daniel know the desolation of Jerusalem would be seventy years?
102. How did Daniel approach his prayers on this matter?
103. List the sins Daniel confesses before God concerning Israel.
104. What was involved in the “shame of face”^(NKJV), and why did it occur?
105. Where is the oath referred to in verse eleven found?
106. Despite all the evil done to Israel, what had they not done?
107. Because of God’s anger, what had become of Jerusalem and the people?
108. What was Daniel doing because of God's mercies?
109. What was Gabriel’s task?
110. Why was Daniel to be shown these things?
111. Why were seventy weeks given the people?
112. How many weeks were from the command to restore Jerusalem until Messiah?
113. When would the Messiah be cut off?

114. Who will destroy the city and sanctuary?
115. What will be confirmed during the one week?
116. What would cease?
117. What do you think verses twenty-six and twenty-seven are talking about?

Chapter TEN



I. Recalling a vision.

- B. He involved himself in a fast.

II. Daniel's disturbing vision.

- A. A man appears before him.
1. Well-dressed but awesome.
 2. The men with Daniel fled.
- B. Though frightened, he heard what the man said.

III. The commission of the interpreter.

- A. The purpose of his coming.
1. Because of Daniel's words.
 2. First, he put Daniel at ease somewhat.
- B. The delay of his coming.
1. An evil spirit delayed him.
 2. He is disentangled and comes to Daniel with the message.

C. The time of fulfillment, “latter days” - end of the Jewish state.

IV. Daniel's reaction.

A. He is unable to speak.

B. When he spoke, he expressed his awe.

V. Daniel is strengthened.

A. The messenger exhorts him.

1. “greatly beloved” (NKJV)

2. “fear not . . . be strong” (NKJV)

B. Daniel feels stronger.

C. The messenger's plans.

1. Finish the fight in Persia.

2. Next will be a fight with the Greeks.

3. The task was given to Michael and the messenger.

Review Questions

118. What restrictions did Daniel place upon himself during his time of mourning?

119. Describe the man clothed in linen.

120. What caused the men with Daniel to hide?

121. How did seeing the vision alone affect Daniel?

122. What did hearing the voice do to Daniel?

123. What position was Daniel in after the hand touched him?

124. When did God begin to hear Daniel’s words?

125. What prevented the messenger’s coming, and who helped him?

126. What did the one who touched Daniel do for him?

127. Why did “*the one* having the likeness of a man”(NKJV) have to leave Daniel?

128. Who stood with the man in this matter?

Chapters ELEVEN & TWELVE



- I. The fall of Persia. (11:1-4)**
 - B. The greatness of the fourth king.
- II. The king of the south joins with the king of the north. (11:5-8)**
 - A. The daughter of the south goes to the king of the north.
 - B. The alliance is broken.
- III. The conflict between the north and south. (11:9-20)**
 - A. The king of the south's son goes to war.
 - B. The king of the north goes to war against the king of the south.
 - C. The king of the north is defeated.
- IV. A new king in the north. (11:21-35)**
 - A. A short reign by an oppressor.
 - B. The reign of a “vile person”(NKJV).
 - C. Another war with the king of the south.
 - D. Cyprus versus the king of the north.
 - E. Jerusalem is profaned.
- V. A change in the identity of the king of the north. (11:36-45)**
 - A. The action and descriptions of this king.
 - B. The king of the south moves against him and is defeated.
 - C. The king of the north is brought down.
- VI. Trouble in Judea. (12:1-4)**

- A. Persecution in the land.
- B. A time of judgment.

VII. The appearance of two men. (12:5-13)

- A. The question of time.
- B. The answer is given.
- C. Daniel's question of the time.
- D. The sealing of the book.

Review Questions

129. How did the fourth king of Persia compare with the previous three?
130. When the "mighty king" was broken, what happened to his kingdom?
131. How did the king of the north and the king of the south join themselves together?
132. Who shall enter the fortress of the king of the north?
133. Whose sons were stirred up?
134. Who was victorious in the battle of 11:11?
135. Describe the forces against the king of the south in 11:14-15.
136. Describe the flow of battle in 11:14-17.
137. Describe the victories of the king in 11:17-19; which king was this?
138. What was different about the tax raiser's death?
139. How did the vile man gain control?
140. Describe the vile ruler's rule in 11:21-24.
141. Who could not stand in 11:25?
142. How are the actions of both kings described?

143. Against which king do the ships come?
144. How will he treat the covenant in 11:30-32?
145. What will happen to those with understanding?
146. What glories and actions did the king do for himself?
147. When pushed by the king of the south, what does the king of the north do?
148. “He shall have power over” what?
149. What will he do before coming to an end?
150. How extensive was the trouble in 12:1?
151. What did Daniel witness concerning those who sleep and those who are wise?
152. What was Daniel told to do with the book?
153. What question was asked of the man clothed in linen?
154. What was the answer?
155. What shall take 1,290 days?
156. Who were to be blessed?