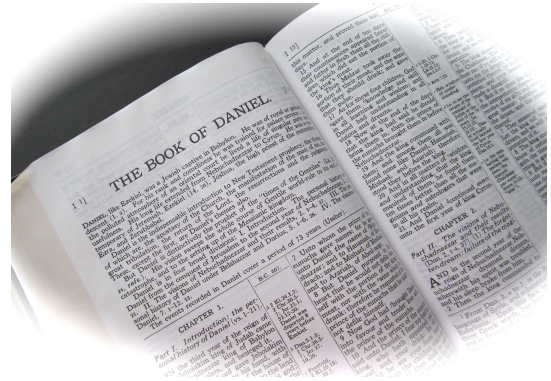


Books of The Bible

A Survey of Daniel - Part 1

Introduction

Of all the prophets, major and minor, the best known ones would undoubtedly be Daniel and Jonah. It is immaterial whether you speak to a child or adult and ask them to name the prophets. It will either be Jonah or Daniel. The book of Daniel is known to a child because of the tremendous stories, such as the Hebrew servants in the fiery furnace (ch. 3:23-26); the feast of Belshazzar (ch. 5:1-31); and most of all by Daniel in the lions den (ch. 6:16-23). Many teenagers will have heard of Daniel and his complete dedication to God (ch. 1:3). Adults will be more aware of the prophetic aspect and the truths concerning the world powers (ch. 2, 7, 8, 9, 10-12).



It is a book of profound depths showing to believers of this age:

- a) The results of sin among the people of God (ch. 1:1). They had lost their land and were in captivity.
- b) The privilege of praying to the true God (spelt Elah) (ch. 2:18).
- c) The faithfulness of God, especially to his people who honor him (ch. 3:25).
- d) The calm quietness of knowing the sovereignty of God, that He is still on the throne (ch. 4:17).
- e) True confession and supplications (ch. 9: 4, 19).

It is a book of paradoxes:

- a) There are good angels and evil angels: “The prince of the kingdom of Persia, and Michael” (ch. 10:13).
- b) Man’s view and God’s view of world empires (ch. 2 and ch. 7); the four metals plus the clay and iron, and the four beasts plus the last beast.
- c) Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great image and there is a revelation of God's purpose (ch. 2:18-47). Then Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great tree, and in this we see the sovereignty of God and his rule over all kingdoms (ch. 4:11-26).

When Was It Written?

There are a number of Biblical books upon which higher criticism has caused questions concerning when the book was written. There are those who date it around 165 BCE (Before common era) and others in the 6th century BCE. A number of arguments can be made with either. However, for me a clinching truth is that if it is mere history rather than prophecy and written by someone other than Daniel, then the Lord was badly mistaken when He spoke of Daniel the prophet and the abomination of desolation (Matt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14).

The Message

According to the blessings of God, in the Old Testament those who were His loyal and obedient servants are often blessed with earthly success (ch. 1:9, 20; 2:4).

Comparison of Daniel With Other Persons

- 1) The similarity between Daniel and Joseph:
 - a) Both were brought up in a distant country from where they ended up as captive (Gen. 37:28; Dan. 1:1-6)
 - b) Both were brought into a place of prominence (Gen. 41:41; Dan. 2:48)
 - c) Both were tested and refused to be unfaithful to the principles of God (Gen. 39:7-9; Dan. 1:8-12)
 - d) Both had their names changed (Gen. 41:45; Dan. 1:7)
 - e) Both revealed the King's dreams (Gen. 41:29-30; Dan. 4:18-32)

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- f) One was before Israel's history as a nation began, for Joseph was dead a long time before the people as a nation began in their redemption from Egypt, (Gen. 50:26; Ex. 12:31-36) and the other after the end of them as a free people for they were under the Babylonians.

2) Daniel and John

a) Daniel and John's Revelation

- i) Both speak of the future of the Gentile nations (Dan. 2:31-35; chs. 7-12); (Rev. 13:1-17; 19:17-21)
- ii) Both spoke of the tribulation and persecution of the people of Israel. (Dan. 9; Rev. 7:14; 12:6, 13-17).
- iii) However, whereas many of Daniel's prophecies are now history (chs. 2-6), the ministry of John in Revelation is still largely future (Rev. 4-22)
- iv) Again, whereas Daniel's emphasis is mainly on the historical and political aspect (chs. 2, 4, 5, 7, 12), John's emphasis in Revelation is on the religious, moral, and political (chs. 1-22).

- b) Both had visions of God's purposes (Dan. 2:34, 44; Rev. 5:8-11; 21:1-8)

3) Ezekiel and Daniel

Daniel	Ezekiel
Stood by the river (ch. 10:4)	Sat by the river (ch. 1:3)
Occupied a prophetic position (Matt. 24:15)	Occupied a priestly position (ch. 1:3)

Avenues By Which To Study Daniel

It can be studied:

- a) Biographically and practically by considering aspects of the lives of Daniel and the three Hebrews.
 - i) Integrity concerning food (ch. 1:12-14)
 - ii) Integrity concerning worship (ch. 3:12-20)
 - iii) Integrity in his prayers (ch. 6:7-10)
- b) Theocratically by considering the activities of God (in discipling His people (ch. 9:24-27); the preserving of His people (ch. 3:24-27); and honoring those who honour Him (ch. 2:48)
- c) Satanically by looking at the degrading of man by Satan (ch. 5:1-4)
- d) Evangelistically by considering how Nebuchadnezzar was brought low in order for him to seek God, which is the first gospel tract ever written (ch. 4:1-37)
- e) Prophetically by his revealing the deterioration and successiveness of world powers and the overruling sovereignty of God, (ch. 2:31-44; 2:39; 7:22-8; 11-14)
- f) Historically and so authenticating the matters revealed by God (ch. 11 with over 70 prophetic statements, all of which can be thoroughly verified).

Daniel As a Prophecy

More than that, when read in the light of the New Testament then:

- a) It is an authentication of who Christ was (Matt. 26:64)
- b) It is an authentication that Daniel was a prophet (Matt. 24:15)
- c) It is historical and prophetic but also intensely practical, being part of the instruction for the early church for their encouragement (Heb. 11:33)

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From this practical viewpoint

- a) The results of sin among the people of God, because of which they were no longer in the promised land (ch. 1:1)
- b) The privilege of praying to the true God Elah (ch. 2:18)
- c) The faithfulness of God to those who honour Him (ch. 3:25)
- d) The calm quietness of resting on the reality that God is still on the Throne (ch. 4:17)
- e) The manifestation of true confession and supplication (ch. 9:4-19)

The Man

Virtually the entire life of Daniel was spent in Babylon, approximately 69 years, calculated from the date of his captivity until the first year of Cyrus (1:21). Despite living in an exceedingly evil and vile court, he lived a God fearing life. God recognized his fidelity so that in the book of Ezekiel he is mentioned in connection with prayer and righteousness (Ezek. 14:14–20; 28:3). Despite living in captivity, he never swerved in his devotion and loyalty to God, therefore God exalted him so that he was put in the highest position of the state. In that position, and later in life, he had a powerful influence throughout the three kingdoms of Babylon, Media, and Persia.

Not only was Daniel a civil servant in the country of his captivity, he was also a prophet of God. His prophecies, which deal more fully with Gentiles than with the Jewish nation, are among the most remarkable in the entirety of Scriptures.

Daniel and Ezekiel were among the captives carried into Babylon whenever Nebuchadnezzar invaded Palestine (1:1–3). It is thought that he belonged to a family of high rank, if not the royal house, and he was taken into Babylon somewhere around the age of 16. There is some evidence that, at a later date possibly, Daniel was taken in the first invasion in the third year of Jehoiakim, and Ezekiel taken in the second invasion.

The Historical Background

The History of Israel

It can be divided into three major sections as the following table from Scroggie (*The Unfolding Drama of Redemption*) makes clear.

A Theocracy	A Monarchy	A Dependency
The rule of the divinely appointed King	Rule of native claims of man's choosing	The rule by foreign kings
This lasted approximately 400 years	This lasted approximately 500 years	This lasted approximately 23 years
Exodus 1:7 to 1 Samuel 7	1 Samuel 8 to 2 Kings 23	2 Kings 23 to 2 Kings 25

The historical background of Daniel

The historical background of Daniel can be found in passages, namely, 2 Kings 23:29–25:26; 2 Chronicles 35:20 – 36:21; Daniel 1:1; and Jeremiah 52:1–30. This was a traumatic time for Israel when, at an earlier point in Israel's history, the king of Assyria came and the northern kingdom went into captivity. Failing to learn the lessons of God's judgment because of sin, in time the southern kingdom was also brought into captivity. Israel's last national king was Josiah because the four kings who came after him were all foreign partners. Thus Israel, as a ruling nation, came to an end for a time over which the words of Hosea would be fulfilled: "For the children of

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Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim” (Hos. 3:4)

The historical events at the time of Daniel.

Daniel is a book that is almost completely taken up with the subject of prophecy. It is taken up with three aspects of prophecy, namely those passages which are prophetic, those which have fulfilled the prophecy, and those which are often fulfilled prophecy. There is no doubt that there are passages in Daniel which have double fulfillment from that which is now history to prophecy. Also, because of the various understandings, not all will agree with the following outline, but it is how I see the book at this time. I also use the column headed “Visions” to include “divine communications”.

The event	2 Kings Chapter	2 Chronicles Chapter	Daniel Chapter	Jeremiah Chapter	Departments
Battle of Megiddo (Charchemish) and death of Josiah	23:29-30	35:20-27		46:2	
The people make Jehoahaz king and he reigned for 3 months	23:30	36:1-2			
Pharaoh-nechoh put Jehoahaz in bands in captivity and eventually in Egypt	23:32-34	36:3-4			
Jehoiakim (Eliakim) is made king by Pharaoh-nechoh for 11 years	23:34-37	36:4		26:1; 27:1	
Nebuchadnezzar goes against Pharaoh's army		36:6-7			
Nebuchadnezzar takes Jerusalem and Jehoiakim becomes his servant	24:1		1:1		The first department
Jehoiakim dies	24:6	36:8			
Jehoahaz becomes king for three months		36:9			
Nebuchadnezzar comes to Jerusalem and besieges it	24:10-11	36:10			
Jehoiachin is captured with 10,000 others	24:12-16				The second department
Nebuchadnezzar makes Zedekiah king for 11 years	24:17-20	36:10-17		37:1; 52:1	
In Zedekiah's 9 th year, 10 th day of 10 th month, Nebuchadnezzar comes to Jerusalem	25:1-2			52:4-5	

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The event	2 Kings Chapter	2 Chronicles Chapter	Daniel Chapter	Jeremiah Chapter	Departments
In his 11 th year, on the 9 th day of the 4 th month, the city is broken	25:3-5			52:4-5	
Zedekiah is brought to Babylon where his eyes are put out and his sons are killed	25:6-7			52:7-11	The third deportment
In Nebuchadnezzar's 19 th year, on the 7 th day of the 5 th month, he comes to Jerusalem, the walls are broken down, and the house of the Lord burned, and more are carried away	25:8-11	36:18-21		52:12-27	
The 2 nd year of Nebuchadnezzar			2:1		
Belshazzar's 1 st year			7:1		
Belshazzar's 3 rd year			8:1		
Belshazzar unknown date			5:1		
Babylon taken by the Medes and Persians and Belshazzar slain			5:30		
Darius took over the kingdom			5:31		
Darius 1 st year			9:1; 11:1		
Cyrus 3 rd year as king over Persia			10:1		

Outlines of Daniel

Daniel Outlines	
Ch. 1-6	The experiences of individuals....ch. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6
Ch. 7-12	The experiences of nations.....ch. 7, 8, 9, 10-12 These experiences can be viewed as prophetic foreshadowings of: a) The experiences of people in a day to come b) The experiences of nations in a day to come

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Daniel Outlines	
Ch. 1-6	The experiences of a Christian in the midst of an evil world. Ch. 1 - Pressure to change his conscientiousness of God Ch. 3 - Pressure to change his fidelity to God Ch. 6 - Pressure to change his dependence on God
Ch. 7-12	The blessings the believer can have in the midst of an evil world Ch. 9 - Prayer and Communion Ch. 7 - Appreciation of things to come

Basic Lessons

Chapters 1 - 6	Chapter 7 - 12
Experiences in the Christian life in the midst of an evil world and the necessity for fidelity and faithfulness to God	Experiences in the Christian life in spite of being in an evil world can result in having visions of God that is our understandings of God's purposes
These two things follow each other and if there is no fidelity there will be no appreciation of God's interests	
The experiences of individuals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 - Daniel • Chapter 2 - the three Hebrew servants • Chapter 4 - Nebuchadnezzar • Chapter 5 - Belshazzar 	The experiences of nations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 - 12, Babylon Greece, Medo Persia, and Rome
This outline is the prophetic foreshadowing of the experiences of the people in an age to come and of nations in an age to come	

References	Topic
Chapter 1:3 Chapter 2:27 - 28	An undeviating purpose to honor God by obedience to His Word An undeviating purpose to honor God by acknowledging of His revelation
Chapter 2:31 - 35 Chapter 3:1	A great image, indicating the unfolding purposes of God, finishing with the glorification of Christ A great image, the unfolding purposes of man, finishing with the deification of man
Chapter 3:5 Chapter 4:10 - 12	A great image, indicating the spiritual exaltation of man, what man made himself A great tree, indicating the positional exaltation of man, what God has made man
Chapter 5:25 Chapter 6:8	The on deviating writing of God, and man dishonors God and this blasphemy against God The on deviating writing of man, and man denying God and the bitterness against God's people

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References	Topic
Chapter 7:8 Chapter 8:9	The little horn, who is the future beast, who is the head of the Confederation of nations The little horn, who was Antiochus Epiphanies, the King of the North
Chapter 9 Chapter 10	God's purposes for us people on the air, verse 1:23 past events; verse 24 - 28 future events, this has to do with national foes God's provision for his people on the earth, angelic ministry, this has got to do with spiritual foes
Chapter 11 Chapter 12	The course of prophecy The conclusion of prophecy

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

Rowan Jennings, Abbotsford, British Columbia