

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Introduction

ABOUT PROPHECY: GOD IS NOT SUBJECT TO TIME! Isaiah 57:15; Isaiah 46:9-10. God authenticates Himself and His Word through fulfilled prophecy.

WHY STUDY DANIEL?

- Contains amazing proofs of fulfilled prophecy: the Bible is the infallible, inspired Word of God.
- Shows Bible is an integrated message system. Written by One outside our timeline.
- Daniel is the **most attacked, and the most validated and vindicated book** in scripture.
- Most of the Bible deals with history via Israel, but Daniel contains history from Gentile perspective.
- This book is critical to understanding of “end times.”
- **It is vital to know what Daniel says in order to understand the rest of Scripture.**

A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION: WHEN WAS DANIEL WRITTEN?

- **This matters.** Was NOT written in 2nd century BC as some Bibles indicate. Written by Daniel, at time of Daniel. Some think that Daniel could not have known these amazing things in advance, in other words, that God is not sovereign (!) so they try to date the book later, AFTER prophecies fulfilled.
- Daniel is the most authenticated book in the Bible.
- Importance of Septuagint translation, 275 BC.
- Alexander the Great spared Jerusalem because of amazing prophecies.
- German archaeologist Robert Koldewey **unearthed much of Babylon, including Daniel 5 dining hall.**
- In Daniel 5, so-called scholars say “Belshazzar” never existed? Archaeology proves he did!
- Jesus, ultimate authentication: Matthew 24:15

OTHER NOTES ABOUT THIS BOOK

- **“Foreign” words?** 15 Persian words for instruments, Chaldean, language of Babylon. Validate instead of question veracity of this book.
- **Nothing bad or evil is spoken about Daniel** anywhere. Daniel a role model.
- **An “apocalyptic” book.** (apocalyptic = to uncover something hidden)
- **Some things in Daniel are “sealed.”** Not everything in it will be understood until the end times.
- Daniel **does not deal with the Church.** Main focus is Gentile history and God’s plan for the Jews.
- Daniel, Revelation, Zechariah form a sort of “apocalyptic triangle.”
- Daniel **divided into two main sections:** Chapters 1-6 HISTORIC, relating actual events in Daniel’s life. The greatest amount of prophecy is found in chapters 7-12, which are all visions.



A REVIEW OF WORLD (AND IN PARTICULAR JEWISH) HISTORY

- **Old Testament Time Line.** Jewish calendar based on lunar cycle, 360-day years. Dates approximate. All “BC.”

Year	Event
???	Creation, Fall, Flood, Table of Nations, Babel
2050	Abraham
1950	Isaac
1900	Jacob (Israel), 12 Tribes
1800	Israelites to Egypt

1400	Moses, Exodus
1360	Joshua, entry into Promised Land, Judges
1150	Ruth
1100	Samuel
1050	Saul
1015	David

975	Solomon
935	Israel divided 2 kingdoms, the kings, Elijah, Elisha
740	Isaiah
722	Fall of No. Kingdom of Israel to Assyrians
625	Jeremiah

606	1 st siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, first captives to Babylon
595	Ezekiel
587	3 rd (final) siege, temple

	destroyed, land desolate, last captives to Babylon, So. Kingdom of Judah falls
580	Daniel
536	Persian Empire, Cyrus

	allows Jews to return to Israel (captivity ends)
480	Esther
460	Ezra
450	Nehemiah – OT history ends

BACKGROUND ON BABYLON

- Bible can be called “**The Tale of Two Cities**” – Babylon and Jerusalem.
- **We first hear about Babylon, or Bab-el** (“gateway to the gods”) in **Genesis chapter 10**. Nimrod founded Bab-el (in defiance of God) on “plain of Shinar,” becomes Babylon, located between Tigris and Euphrates rivers; people who lived and ruled here known as the **Chaldeans**. Bab-el, also in defiance of God, being rebuilt today, both physically and spiritually.
- **Babylon always involved in world power struggles**. All centered around either Nineveh or Babylon.
- **Every form of political, scientific and economic system** known to man has roots in Babylon. Also, every form of occultic/pagan practice has its roots in Babylon. Every spiritual corruption goes back to Babylon, since the first uprising against God after the flood at the Tower of Bab-el.
- Babylon is located 62 miles south of Baghdad, in the country of Iraq. Much of the ancient buildings have been excavated; Saddam Hussein restored portions, including banquet hall of chapter 5.
- **FALL of Babylon vs DESTRUCTION of Babylon**. “Fall” occurred in 539 BC when Persian empire came to power. Destruction has not occurred yet. Important to understanding prophecies.



RELEVANT HISTORY

- 3 sieges of Jerusalem, Daniel opens at 1st siege. First captives. Nebuchadnezzar plunders Temple. Begins “Servitude of the Nation” (important term, and event), 70-year captivity.
- Don’t stray from literal interpretation of God’s Word. He is precise in His fulfillments.
- Temple and city destroyed 586/7 BC (3rd siege) began the “Desolations of Jerusalem.”
- **Don’t stray from *literal* interpretations**. (God is holy, AND perfect in his precision!!)
- **Judah judged because** they had broken countless laws including the Sabbath year laws for the land – for 490 years. God told them they owed Him and the land 70 years. (2 Chronicles 36:20-21)

STARTLING Re-establishment of modern nation of Israel (1948), and recapture of Jerusalem (1967)

- “Desolations of Jerusalem,” “Servitude of the Nation,” two different incidents, 19 years apart.
- Sir Robert Anderson, 360-day prophetic year, calendar corrections, etc.
- Ezekiel 4:1-8 (430 years judgment predicted 430-70 = 360 remaining X 7* = 2520 yrs)
- **SERVITUDE OF THE NATION**: 1st siege of Nebuchadnezzar = 606 BC. Remove 70 years of actual captivity, use 7-fold punishment formula* (Leviticus 26:17-24) = 906,295 days, yields May 14, 1948.
- **DESOLATIONS OF JERUSALEM**: 3rd (final) siege 587 BC (also correlates with rebuilding of city walls, dates we know). Applying same formula as above we get June 7, 1967, when Israel regained control of Jerusalem. Again, precision in fulfillment!

If you are interested in the mathematics and calculations to yield these numbers, they are included at Chuck Missler’s website: www.khouse.org. (one of the best sites we know for diving into the beautiful depths of God’s Word)

FINAL NOTES...

- Nebuchadnezzar (God’s servant)/Babylonian empire began period of time scripture calls the “times of the Gentiles.” Since then, Israel has either not had a homeland or not had complete control over it. (see Luke 21:24)
- **No king from the line of David has ruled over Israel since the Babylonian captivity**. The next one is getting ready!