

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION:

1. Daniel was contemporary with two other great prophets: Jeremiah and Ezekiel.
2. Jeremiah prophesied in Jerusalem before and during the Babylonian exile (626-528 B.C.)
3. Ezekiel prophesied in Babylon among the exiles (592-570 B.C.).
4. Daniel prophesied in the capital of Babylon (605-586 B.C.).
5. The name Daniel means "God is my judge." This, in reality, gives us the theme to the book, "God Rules in the Kingdom of Men."

DISCUSSION:

1. MORE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

1. 612 BC – FALL OF NINEVEH, CAPITAL OF ASSYRIA.
2. 605 BC – BATTLE OF CARCHEMISH, BABYLON NOW RULING
3. 597 BC – SECOND REMNANT TAKEN TO BABYLON
4. 586 BC – JERUSALEM FALLS AND TEMPLE DESTROYED
5. 536 BC – BABYLON FALLS TO MEDES AND PERSIANS
6. 457 BC – SECOND GROUP OF REMNANT RETURNS TO ISRAEL
7. 447 BC – THIRD GROUP OF REMNANT RETURNS TO ISRAEL

2. THE GOD OF HISTORY:

1. GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN HISTORY (Dan. 1:1-6:28)
2. GOD'S PURPOSE IN HISTORY (Dan. 7:1-12:13).

3. CHAPTER ONE:

1. The Captives' Training (Dan. 1:1-7)
2. Commitment to Remain undefiled (Dan. 1:8-21)

NOTES:

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CHAPTER TWO

INTRODUCTION:

1. Daniel was taken captive in the first wave of the captivity.
2. Isa. 39:7
3. Also, to correct something I said last week. Israel was commanded to allow the land to rest every seventh year, I said every fiftieth year. The Fiftieth Year was the Year of Jubilee. This year was to be a complete year of rest and restoration. So, if I understand correctly, the children of Israel had forsaken the Sabbath year rest for 490 years. Thus, God placed them in captivity for 70 years (see Lev. 25; 26:34; 2 Chron. 36:21; and Jer. 25:9).

DISCUSSION:

1. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (2:1-13)

1. The king has a dream but cannot remember anything about it.
2. He calls for his wise men to tell the dream and its meaning.
3. No one can do this except Daniel.

2. God Reveals the Dream and Its Meaning to Daniel (2:14-23).

1. Daniel is slated to be killed with the others.
2. He asked for the king to give him some time and he would show the dream and its meaning.
3. He and his companions ask (pray) for the dream and its meaning.
4. God reveals to the dream to Daniel.

3. Daniel Interprets the Dream for the King (2:24-45).

1. Four World Empires were represented:
 1. The Babylonian Empire (606-539 BC),
 2. The Medo-Persian Empire (539-332 BC),
 3. The Greek Empire (332-68 BC),
 4. The Roman Empire (68-284? BC).

4. Daniel and his Companions are Promoted (2:46-49)

1. Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges Daniel.
2. Daniel requests that his friends be recognized as well.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL
CHAPTER THREE
They would not bow, bend, or burn!

INTRODUCTION:

1. Nearly twenty years pass between chapter two and chapter three.
2. Nebuchadnezzar had many successes in the years after his dream.
3. No doubt the power of his position is going to his head.

DISCUSSION:

1. Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Idol (3:1-7)

1. The statue (idol) is 90 feet tall and 9 feet wide.
2. The king calls all of his officers and leaders to come and bow before the idol.
3. Anyone refusing to bow before the idol would be cast into a fiery furnace.

2. The Fiery Furnace (3:8-25).

1. It is brought to the attention of the king that some have refused to bow before the idol.
2. Their names are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego (8-12).
3. Nebuchadnezzar is infuriated by their refusal to bow before the idol. He gives the captives one more chance to bow.
4. They steadfastly refuse the king's command. They answer with these words, "we are not careful to answer thee in this matter." In essence they proclaim, we have no need to defend ourselves in this matter, because the God we serve can deliver us from you, but if He chooses not to then we still will not bow before your idol.
5. The king demands the fire to be intensified and the men who cast the three into the fire die.
6. The fourth man is seen walking like the "son of God."

3. Nebuchadnezzar Praises the God of Heaven (3:26-30).

1. The king calls out to the captives who had no marks from the fire.
2. Nebuchadnezzar makes a new decree; no person will be allowed to speak against the God of the Jews.
3. Daniel's companions are promoted by the king.

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CHAPTER FOUR
“Pride goes before destruction...”

INTRODUCTION:

1. As we noted last week in Chapter Three, approximately twenty years had passed.
2. Chapter Four seems to be just a little while after, maybe twenty-five years, Daniel and his companions were taken captive.
3. This chapter could be summed up with these words, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18).

DISCUSSION:

1. Nebuchadnezzar’s Second Dream (4:1-18).

1. The king begins with praises to God for allowing him to become the great king that he was.
2. Once again, only Daniel is able to interpret the king’s dream.
3. The rise and fall of the great tree.

2. Daniel Interprets the Dream (4:19-27).

1. Daniel is hesitant, at first, to interpret the dream.
2. The tree was Nebuchadnezzar. He would continue to grow and prosper but God would humble him if he continued to allow his pride to grow.

3. The king’s humiliation and praise to God (4:28-37).

1. Nebuchadnezzar is filled with pride and claims everything he has was because of his own power.
2. Consider Isaiah 14:1-22.
3. The king is humbled for seven years.
4. God restores him (Luke 15:17).
5. The king praises God and gives Him the proper glory.

The Handwriting on the Wall

Daniel Chapter Five:

INTRODUCTION:

1. There have been many attacks on the book of Daniel. One of the most ferocious attacks has been against Daniel Chapter Five.
2. Who is Belshazzar? Why is referred to as the son of Nebuchadnezzar?
3. The word "father" is used in many senses, even in our world today. George Washington is referred to as the "father of our country." Hippocrates is called the "father of modern medicine." The word father, at the time of the writing of Daniel was used in at least eight different ways. So, we can rightly understand that Nebuchadnezzar was Belshazzar's father in the sense of being his predecessor as king of Babylon.
4. The kings of Babylon have been listed like this: Nebuchadnezzar reigned for forty-five years. Evil-merodach (Merodach, Jer. 50:2) reigned for twenty-three years (he was a son of Neb). Belshazzar is the son of Nabonidus (possibly a grandson of Neb, but this has been disputed) and he reigned for short time in the absence of his father.
5. Interestingly, Vashti is thought to be the daughter of Belshazzar (Esther 1).
6. Amos 5:19 is thought to be a reference to these three kings.

DISCUSSION:

1. **A Night of Revelry (Dan. 5:1-4)**
 1. The king calls for a feast and invites a thousand nobles to attend.
 2. Belshazzar does a little bite more than just tasting the wine, he is now "under the influence" of the wine.
 3. He calls for the vessels of the temple to be brought.
 4. He "toasts" the "gods" of gold, silver, brass, etc.
2. **Night of Reflection (Dan. 5:5-12)**
 1. The now famous "handwriting on the wall."
 2. The king and his companion are terrified.
 3. He calls for someone to interpret the words. No one can until the queen suggests Daniel be brought.
3. **A Night of Rebuke (Dan. 5:13-24)**
 1. Daniel refusing any gifts.
 2. You have followed in the arrogant steps of your father.
 3. God, Who sees everything, is now writing to you.
4. **A Night of Revelation (Dan. 5:25-29)**
 1. God has numbered your day.
 2. You have been judged and found lacking.
 3. Daniel is elevated into a higher position.

5. A Night of Reckoning (Dan. 5:30-31)

1. Belshazzar is slain that very night.
2. Darius, the Mede, took the kingdom.
3. This is exactly what Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar would happen (2:39)

Walking with God and Lions

Daniel Chapter Six

INTRODUCTION:

1. Daniel's character, conviction, and courage are seen once again in this account of Daniel in the Lions' Den.
2. Despite his age, somewhere around 90 years old, Daniel continues to serve God and the king with integrity.
3. A plot is set by Daniel's rivals to have him God, but God rescues him from the conspirators, as well as, the lions.
4. We see clearly in the life of Daniel the importance of prayer. Daniel was a man of prayer. He is in good company, because Jesus was a man of prayer as well (Mark 1:35).

DISCUSSION:

1. THE TRAP IS SET (Dan. 6:1-9).

1. Daniel's rivals become jealous of Daniel's position.
2. They devise a plan where they might discover some kind of wrong doing on Daniel's part concerning his work in the government.
3. Unable to find any impropriety, they then change tactics.
4. The only viable option is to try to trap through his relationship with God.
5. They convince Darius to sign a decree that the only petitions offered for the next thirty days must be to him.

2. THE TRAP IS SPRUNG (Dan. 6:10-17).

1. Even after finding out about the decree Daniel does not change his behavior.
2. He still prays to God three times a day.
3. This is brought to Darius' attention.
4. Daniel is given the opportunity to stop, but refuses.

3. THE TRAP IS SPOILED (Dan. 6a:18-23).

1. Even though Darius recognizes that this is politically motivated, he will not change the decree.
2. God sends His Angel to protect Daniel.
3. Daniel is released and his enemies are destroyed.

4. KING DARIUS HONORS GOD AND DANIEL (Dan. 6:24-28).

1. King Darius writes another decree praising God.
2. Daniel prospers in the reign of Darius and in the new Persian Kingdom under Cyrus.

THE FOUR BEASTS AND THE SON OF MAN

Daniel Chapter Seven

INTRODUCTION:

1. We are now introduced to Daniel's first vision. It happened in the first year of Belshazzar's reign over Babylon.
2. It is a vision about what king Nebuchadnezzar saw in Chapter Two, but with much more vivid details.
3. We have more detail about the fourth kingdom that Nebuchadnezzar saw with emphasis placed on the final kingdom ruled by the Son of Man.

DISCUSSION:

1. FOUR BEASTS ARISE FROM THE SEA (verses 1-8).

1. The first beast is a lion with wings which is given a man's heart.
2. The second beast is a bear with three ribs in its mouth.
3. The third beast is like a leopard with four wings and four heads.
4. The final beast is different from all the rest. It is a terrible beast with ten horns.

2. DANIEL NOW SEES THE ANCIENT OF DAYS (verses 9-12).

1. Daniel is given a glimpse into heaven.
2. It is a different picture than Isaiah's vision (Isa. 6:1-4).
3. This is a vision of God in judgment against the kingdoms of men, especially of Rome.

3. THE CORONATION OF THE SON OF MAN (verses 13-14).

1. This picture is seen in Matthew 24:29-31.
2. Jesus ascends to the Ancient of Days in Acts 1:9.
3. At His ascension, Jesus is crowned as King of kings and Lord of Lords (Eph. 1:20-22, Phil. 2:9-11, 1 Tim. 6:15, Heb. 12:28, and Rev. 1:6).

4. THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE FOURTH BEAST AND THE ULTIMATE VICTORY OF THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH (verses 15-28).

1. Daniel is now given the interpretation of the vision.
2. He is allowed to see the ugliness of the fourth beast.
3. But is also shown the ultimate victory of the saints of the Most High!

The Ram vs. the Rough Goat

Daniel Chapter

INTRODUCTION:

1. We are now introduced to Daniel's second vision. It happened in the third year of Belshazzar's reign over Babylon.
2. This is a vision about the Medo-Persian Empire being conquered by the Greek Empire.

DISCUSSION:

1. The Setting for the Vision (vs. 1-2)

1. Daniel is in the city of Shushan (Susa); the city of lilies.
2. In the vision he is on the banks of the river (canal) of Ulai.

2. The Vision (vs. 3-14)

1. Daniel saw a ram with two horns, one larger than the other. The ram pushed to the west, north, and south and nothing could stop it.
2. He next saw a rough goat charging into the ram and destroying it.

3. Explanation of the Vision (vs. 15-26)

1. Daniel saw a ram standing in front of the river Ulai. The text tells us that this ram with one horn larger than the other. This represents the Medes and the Persians. The larger horn shows the dominance of the Persians over the Medes. From his base in Susa (Shushan), the Persian king would be able to dominate to the west (Syria, Asia Minor, and Babylonia), to the north (Armenia), and to the south (Egypt).
2. Next Daniel saw a rough goat charging from the west. He is described as flying over the surface of the ground. This is the Greek Empire was led by Alexander the Great (the single horn in Daniel's vision). He was then followed by four kings. Alexander's kingdom originally broke into five parts: 1) Cassander ruled Macedonia; 2) Lyismachus ruled Thrace and Asian Minor; 3) Seleucus ruled Syria and Babylonia; 4) Ptolemy ruled Egypt; and 5) Antigonus ruled part of Asia Minor. In 301 BC Lysimachus and Seleucus defeated Antigonus in the battle of Ipsus.
3. A little horn would rise and be devastating, even to the people of God (Israel). But, God would remove at the right time.

4. The Effects of the Vision upon Daniel (v. 27)

1. Daniel was sick.
2. He got up and went back to work.
3. He was astonished, but no one understood (1 Pet. 1:10-12).

Seventy “Weeks” Daniel Chapter

INTRODUCTION:

1. In the first year of the reign of Darius, Daniel discovered the number of the years that Jeremiah prophesied that Israel would be in this captivity.
2. Realizing that the reason they were in captivity was their grievous sin of forsaking God, Daniel begins to pray to God for the nation.
3. In his confessional prayer, Daniel grieves over the sins of his nation. During his petition, an angel named Gabriel came in the form of a man and gave him understanding about the coming future of Israel.

DISCUSSION:

1. The Setting for the Vision (vs. 1-2)

1. This chapter takes place during the first year of Darius, the Mede.
2. Cyrus would later allow some of the captives to return to Israel and to begin to rebuild the Israel (538 BC).
3. Daniel understood that Jeremiah had prophesied that the captivity in Babylon would last seventy years (Jer. 25:11).

2. Daniel intercedes for the nation in prayer to God (vs. 3-19)

1. Daniel begins his prayer by repenting in sackcloth and ashes with fasting.
2. He recounts the sins of the nation.
3. He praises the righteousness of God.
4. He pleads with God to show mercy to His people.

3. Daniel is again visited by Gabriel and shown the future of Israel (vs. 15-26)

1. God directed Gabriel to instruct Daniel about future events.
2. He tells Daniel that seventy “weeks” have been determined.
3. For a literal discussion of this see: www.christiancourier.com/articles/14-daniels-prophecy-of-the-seventy-weeks.
4. I’m going to take a slightly different approach. The word translated “weeks” (9:24) is actually the past tense of the number “7” or “sevened.” The obvious question is does this refer to a week or is it a figurative number for a year. Many commentators understand that Daniel is using the number to describe 490 years.
5. I suggest that Daniel is using the number in the same way Jesus used this phrase in Matthew 18:22. It is a term of perfect completeness. Paul used the phrase “in the fulness of time” in Gal. 4:4, describing the time was just perfect for Jesus to come to the earth.
6. Thus, from the time of the release of Israel by Cyrus to the time of the destruction of Jerusalem (70 AD); God’s Perfect Will for man’s salvation would be perfectly complete. The actual number of years is immaterial.

7. It is interesting that Gabriel says seven things would be accomplished during this time: 1) finish the transgression and to make an end to sin, 2) to make reconciliation for iniquity, 3) to bring in everlasting righteousness, 4) to seal the vision and the prophecy, 5) to anoint the Most Holy, 6) to confirm the covenant with many, and 7) to cause sacrifice and oblation to cease (Mat. 24:15).

Unseen Warfare Daniel Chapter Ten

INTRODUCTION:

1. It needs to be mentioned that Chapter 10-12 are one unit. Chapters 11 & 12 conclude the vision that began in Chapter 10:1. This is a vital point that needs to be remembered.
2. Daniel was deeply disturbed by the visions he saw in Chapters 8 & 9. So much so, that this chapter begins with Daniel had been praying and fasting for three weeks.

DISCUSSION:

1. The Setting for the Vision (vs. 1-3)

1. Daniel's vision comes during the third year of the reign of Cyrus. Daniel is told the truth of his visions and that they would be fulfilled in his future in about 600 years. He understands the visions because angelic messengers explain the visions to him.
2. Daniel is so disturbed by Israel's future destruction that he is in mourning for three weeks.

2. Daniel's Fourth Vision (vs. 4-9)

1. Daniel is on the banks of the Hiddekel River (Tigris).
2. Daniel is visited by a "man." Compare the description of this "man" to Revelation 1:12-18. Is this Jesus before His Incarnation? This would be called a theophany or a physical manifestation of God to man. Is this Jesus or a celestial being? This has been debated for centuries and there are good arguments on both sides. I lean toward this being Jesus based on the description matching Revelation 1.

3. The Vision Explained (vs. 10-14)

1. The vision is now being interpreted for Daniel. This will take through the end of the book with various interruptions.
2. This is where Daniel is shown the nature of spiritual warfare. There are so many things happen behind the veil that we, as humans, simply cannot see or understand fully. Brethren, this ought to help us pray more!
3. Ephesians 6:10-18.
4. 2 Kings 6:13-17.
5. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.

6. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.
4. **Daniel's Strength Fails (vs. 15-17)**
 1. Daniel again is so overwhelmed that his strength fails.
 2. He is touched by One like the son of man. See Philippians 4:13.
5. **Daniel is Strengthened (vs. 18-21)**
 1. Daniel is once again touched by one who had the appearance of a man.
 2. He is strengthened again.
 3. This "man" goes to wage war against the prince of Persia. Who is this prince of Persia? It must be some kind of demonic power.
 4. But God uses His angelic beings to help in the battle.

The Time of the End Daniel Chapter Eleven

INTRODUCTION:

DISCUSSION:

1. **The Setting for the Vision (vs. 1)**
 1. As we mentioned last week, this chapter is a part of the entire vision of chapters 10-12. The angel is continuing to reveal the vision chapter 11.
 2. This part of the vision was given to encourage king Darius. Daniel is going to show him the future of his kingdom, much like he did with Nebuchadnezzar.
 3. Why did God show these things to Daniel? So that Daniel would understand that God is in control and that His faithful children will be fine, if they will only walk in His way.
2. **God Holds the Future in His Hands (2-45)**
 1. **The Persian-Greek conflict (2-4):** The last of the Persians and the arrival of the Greeks. Three kings: Cambyses, Smerdis, and Darius the great. PS: Darius is a title like Caesar and there was more than one Darius.
 2. **Rival Kingdoms (5-20):** The Ptolemaic and Seleucid kingdoms received special attention because Israel would be stuck in the middle. Much political intrigue takes place during this time. Kings were marrying daughters to rival kingdoms. Murders and assassinations were the norm. These lead to the arrival of the "vile" person.
 3. **The Arrival of the "Vile" Person (vs 21-35):**
 1. **The Rise of Antiochus Epiphanes (vs. 21-24),** whom we mentioned in other sermons, now arrives on the scene. He uses political and military confusion to rise to power. This points to the death of Onias, the third, the last godly high priest under the Mosaic dispensation.

2. **Antiochus attacks Egypt (vs. 25-30)** in 170 BC. The Ptolemy king could not withstand his assault.
3. **Persecution of the Jews (vs. 30-35):** As Antiochus heads home, he conquers the city of Jerusalem. He strips the Temple of anything of value, even removing the gold plating off the front of the Temple.
4. **The Rise of the Arrogant King (vs. 36-45):** This king has been disputed in commentaries: is it Antiochus, is it Herod the Great, or is it Julius Caesar and the Roman kings? If we follow the previous visions, then we must conclude that the angel is giving Daniel details of the final earthly kingdom. This is the time of the Messiah and eventually leading to the establishment of the Kingdom of the Messiah, the everlasting Kingdom, the Church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

PS: Chapter 12:1-5 rightly belong with Chapter 11. It is hard to understand why “Cardinal Hugo de Sancto Caro” divided these chapters the way he did. Just remember that Chapters 10-12 are one continuous revelation.