

Today - we start a V-by-V study - of the Book of DANIEL

Daniel is SUCH an incredible Book

It has some of the Greatest "Life Lessons" in the O.T.

AND it has THE MOST Crucial Prophetic Foundations in the O.T.

The Book of Daniel is ONE HALF "NARRATIVE HISTORY"

With incredible lessons that can be taught in Sunday School
AND in Seminary - with EQUAL POWER

AND - The Book of Daniel is ONE HALF
FOUNDATIONAL PROPHECY

So foundational - that you CAN NOT Understand N.T. Prophecy
WITHOUT the Book of Daniel

& so - Daniel kind of Reminds me (in a GOOD WAY)
of the Character in BATMAN - Called TWO-FACE

I'm History

I'm Prophecy

But I promise - we're going to LOVE - BOTH the Incredible HISTORY
side of Daniel - AND the Incredible PROPHECY Side of Daniel

So - Let's Just PRAY - & I'll tell you how we're going to get started

Let's Pray

I really AM EXCITED to get IN to the Book of Daniel

But . . . you CAN'T just JUMP - Right into Daniel

Because the HISTORICAL Setting - is TOO Vital, TOO Critical

How can we really FEEL the Historical Setting of Daniel

If we don't FIRST - Set the Stage -

& Paint the Picture that LEADS UP to the Book of Daniel

So - THAT is what I'd like to do today

If you are visiting - We normally do a TON of Bible reading here -
Teaching Primarily V.-by-V. thru the Bible

However - today - I need to SUMMARIZE a HUGE Section
of the Bible that's Critical to Understand heading into Daniel

In fact - You CAN'T really grasp the Significance of DANIEL
without Grasping WHERE Israel is AT
when the Book of Daniel is UNFOLDING

So - Please bear with me - as I Summarize - 350+ Years
& Some Part of 18 books of the Bible - in Story Form

That's how BIG a Time Frame - I'm gonna COVER today
Can you handle that ?

Ok - then get into a BIG PICTURE Frame of Mind - & let's GO

King David RULED over ALL of Israel - 1,000 BC

David's Son - Solomon - Followed

& **Solomon** built the **GREAT Temple** of God
& **God** had **Blessed Solomon** with **WISDOM**

But Solomon ended up being **influenced MORE**
by **MONEY & WOMEN** - than by his **Godly WISDOM**

& **with all** of **Solomon's Wives & Concubines**
Came their **Pagan Gods**

& **Solomon** (to appease them) -
built temples to those **Pagan god's - IN Israel**

& from **THAT time on** - **Israel** was **Crippled** - By their **LOVE**
for the **world's idols & pagan god's**

WHICH (by the way) **the WORSHIP** of **MOST** of these **idols & god's**
usually involved something **SEXUAL**

As Solomon said - *Truly there is nothing new under the sun*

As we **Watch our Culture TODAY** - **worshipping similar idols**
& **pagan gods** - often **involving** something **SEXUAL** !!

This Culture Can't advertise a **HAMBURGER**
without having a **SEXUAL component** in **the Ad**

& **so** - **Because** of **Solomon's "Turning away from the Lord"**
& **Turning Toward** these **idols & pagan god's** of the **world**

The Lord declared - after **Solomon's death**
the **Nation of Israel** would be **SPLIT in TWO**

& so - After Solomon - His Son REHOBOAM Ruled

& in his Youthful ARROGANCE - OVER-Exerting his RULE -
he SPLIT the 12 tribes of Israel into TWO KINGDOMS

10 Tribes in the NORTH - Called ISRAEL

2 Tribes in the SOUTH - Called JUDAH

Now - I wish that the 10 tribes in the North
were called something OTHER than ISRAEL

Because we know them ALL as Israel
But - *THAT'S what they were Called*

The First KING of the Northern 10 Tribes
Immediately SET them on the PATH to Destruction

By Setting up GOLDEN CALVES in the North to be Worshipped

& by continuing to Bring in the IDOL & PAGAN worship
that had actually started with Solomon

In DEC - Some of us will SIT on the Foundation of the ALTAR
that King JEROBOAM set up for the Northern Tribes
to Worship the Golden CALF - in DAN

As an Aside - if we spent some money to have the Bible studies
that we do on site in Israel Videoed - with both the GUIDE doing
historical facts & me doing Spiritual application - is that a Video
some of you would LIKE to SEE?

So - The Nation of Israel SPLIT into TWO Kingdoms

& in ESSENCE - during this PERIOD - there were a TOTAL
of 43 Kings - over the TWO Kingdoms of ISRAEL

& for each of these Kings - the Bible says whether they DID
what was RIGHT in the Eyes of the Lord - Or what was EVIL

& HERE is how the Numbers FELL

10 Kings out of the 43 - Did what was RIGHT in the Eyes of the Lord
& ALL 10 of those Kings were in the Southern 2 Tribes of Judah

33 Kings did what was EVIL in the Eyes of the Lord

Continuing to Rebel against & Reject God - & Cont'g to turn
the nation of Israel more & more to the pagan gods of the World

Tho there were some HIGH POINTS - & Some Godly Kings

The overall direction of this period of time was Israel
Falling away, falling away, & falling away from the Lord

& God sent one PROPHET After Another - to WARN Israel
of the Consequences of Turning away from him
& running after the gods of this world

Prophet after Prophet after Prophet
Calling the People BACK to God

& WARNING them of the Eventual Consequences
of their Continued SIN

HERE is a **List** of **JUST** the **Prophets** we have **solid record** of in **the Bible** - **Sent during** this **time** of **Rebellion**

But **we know** there were **plenty of OTHER Prophets** as well **who don't** have a **lot of space** in the **Bible**

The Prophets that **WARNED** Israel of the **Consequences** of their **SIN** during this time:

AMOS **HOSEA** **JONAH** **NAHUM** **MICAH**
ZEPHANIAH **HABAKKUK** **JOEL** **OBADIAH**

And The Big Ones - **ELIJAH**, **ELISHA**, **ISAIAH** & **JEREMIAH**

These are **JUST** the **Primary Prophets** - **sent by God** to **WARN** Israel of the **Consequences** of their **Continued Rebellion** & **Sin**

& to **PLEAD with Israel** - to **turn** from their **LOVE** of this **WORLD** & **Turn BACK** to God

<p><u>Do you think</u> there is <u>ANY APPLICATION</u> here to <u>OUR Culture</u> ? <u>Do you think</u> there is <u>ANY APPLICATION</u> here to <u>US - Personally</u> ?</p>
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Warning after Warning - Prophet after Prophet

& **God's People** (In General) **Continued** to **RUN after** their **LOVE of the World** - & the **IDOLS of the World**

Like Solomon Said - ***There's nothing new under the sun***

HOWEVER - it is **IMPORTANT** to **SAY**
It was **NEVER** - **ALL of Israel** . . . **JUST** . . . **MOST of Israel**

God has ALWAYS had a Believing & Faithful REMNANT

No matter HOW BAD the Culture GOT - God always had those
“interspersed” within the culture - who remained FAITHFUL

But . . . NOT SO for the Masses
- & God REPEATEDLY Warned his people . . .

That the Consequences for their Rebellion & Sin
would eventually be their REMOVAL from the Promised Land

& it would take me DAYS - to show you . . .

HOW MANY Times God had MERCY on his people
while they were living in outright (*in-your-face*) sin & rebellion

Mercy, Mercy, Mercy . . .

AND - even after the consequences for their Sin DID COME -
STILL - God gave the Promise of His MERCY - Afterward

BUT . . . Those Consequences DID - Finally - COME
FIRST - to the Northern 10 tribes

For almost 300 Years - Since the Kingdom Divided after Solomon

the North NEVER DID follow the Lord wholeheartedly -
tho they had plenty of chances - & a few “Bright Spots”

& so - ultimately - the Lord allowed
the Assyrian Army to Conquer them

& the Assyrians CARTED OFF the Majority of those Israelites
& DISPERSED THEM into the WORLD of Assyria

The Entire Northern area of the Promise Land -
That the people of Joshua had fought so hard to win for Israel

Was LOST - As the Consequence
of Israel's Rebellion & Rejection of God

Have you ever heard about these Christians who WARN America
about the Consequences of REJECTING GOD
& REMOVING HIM from our Culture

& the MAIN STREAM consider them KOOKS - Don't They?

& the MAIN STREAM Israelites considered the prophets KOOKS
when they were Sending the same warnings

Right up until the ASSYRIAN ARMY WIPED them OUT!!

But Don't WORRY - God's NOT the SAME today - as He was THEN

Certainly God wouldn't allow the Consequences of OUR SIN
to FALL on US - Like He did Israel . . . *Right ? . . . Right ?*

& so the Northern 10 Tribes were Carried off
& Dispersed into Assyria - & basically DISAPPEARED

BUT - It's interesting to note - the Israelites of those 10 Tribes
that were carried off & dispersed into Assyria

Emerge again in the N.T. - As the SAMARITANS -
HALF Jew/HALF Gentile - & Hated by the "Pure Jews"

Anyway - **SO NOW** Israel was **DOWN**
to Just **TWO Tribes Left** - in the **area** of **JERUSALEM**
BENJAMIN - & **JUDAH**

& the **King of Assyria TRIED** to **come down** & **Take Them Too**

But **JUDAH** had a **RIGHTEOUS KING** at the time - **Hezekiah**
& so **God fought** for **Hezekiah** - & **Saved Jerusalem**

Unfortunately - After **Hezekiah** - came his son **MANASSEH**
Who was the **MOST Wicked King** in Israel's **History** . . .

BUT who Also **REPENTED** - & **God Forgave him**
& to **SOME EXTENT** - **Restored** him - (*good news for some of us*)

So as **Time continued** - these **Two Remaining Tribes** in the **South**
Had **Many BAD KINGS** - & **A FEW GOOD KINGS**

Near the end - Was **JOSIAH** - Who was a **GOOD & GODLY KING**
& **Began** His **REIGN** - at **8 yrs old**

But to **give you** an Idea - of **HOW FAR Away** from **God's Law**
the **Nation of Israel** had **gotten**

When Josiah was **20** - He **began a campaign** to (again)
destroy all the **pagan idol worship** in **Israel**

& **while** he was in **the midst** of **that** - A **Servant** found a **SCROLL**
of **the LAW of MOSES** buried in a **basement** of the **Temple**
& he **read it to Josiah** .

& the **King** of the **NATION of God's People** - Was **Blown Away** -
HEARING The Law Of God - For **THE FIRST TIME**

The NATION of Israel - Which was BUILT on the Laws of God

Had Gotten SO FAR Away from God - that God's Law
was NO LONGER ANY PART of that Nation's Culture

Can you Imagine a Nation - Originally BUILT on the LAWS of GOD

Getting So Far AWAY from God - that God's Laws
no longer had ANY PLACE in the Culture of that Nation

If you can IMAGINE that - You might think that Nation
was Headed for Some Trouble . . . & you MIGHT . . . Be RIGHT !

& So - After Josiah (Last of the GODLY Kings) - the Remaining
Two Tribes of Israel went into a Straight Downward SPIRAL

Until Finally - After 350 years of God's MERCY

God HAD to allow the Consequences
of the Israel's Rebellion & Sin - to Fall upon them

& that 350 Year Number is interesting to me

Because it was 350 years ago - that the American COLONIES were
first being established - Which was the beginning of THIS Nation

I wonder - if we have already received MORE MERCY from God
than the Nation of Israel did ?

Anyway - FINALLY - For Israel - God had HAD ENOUGH!

It was time to bring to pass -

The Consequences of Israel's Sin & Rejection of God

OR - did you think the consequences of SIN

that God warns us about - Would NEVER Come to pass ?

Guys - (Aside from Israel being God's Covenant People)

The O.T. History of Israel - is the History of a NATION

that was Established BY GOD - & According to GOD'S LAWS

& then . . . *Turned away from God,*

& Turned away from God,

& Turned away from God

& God Warned them - & God Warned them - & God Warned them

Should God ONLY Warn - & NEVER actually BRING

the Consequences that He is WARNING About ?

But HERE is the Incredible Thing

even tho the CONSEQUENCES of Sin CAME upon Israel

God's Mercy toward them - NEVER Ended - & Will NEVER END

But - God "Holding Back the Consequences"

of their Sin & Rebellion - DID - FINALLY - Come to an END

Daniel 1:1–4 (NLT)

1 During the third year of King Jehoiakim’s reign in Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

2 The Lord gave him victory over King Jehoiakim of Judah and permitted him to take some of the sacred objects from the Temple of God. So Nebuchadnezzar took them back to the land of *Babylonia* (Shinar ESV) and placed them in the treasure-house of his god.

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah’s royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives.

4 “Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men,” he said. “Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge and good judgment, and are suited to serve in the royal palace. Train these young men in the language and literature of Babylon.”

That’s Our DANIEL - Right there - That’s him
Daniel is ONE of those Strong - Healthy - Young Men

Gifted with knowledge & Good Judgment
& with upbringing suited to serve in the Royal Palace

That’s Daniel - He’s IN the FIRST WAVE of Captives
taken to Babylon - AS Prisoners

Which was a Direct Consequence of 350 years
of Rebellion & Rejection of God by the Nation of Israel

THAT is HOW Daniel GETS to Babylon -
& THAT is WHY our study of Daniel - OCCURS in Babylon

Because for over 350 Years The Nation of Israel
had been in REBELLION - & REJECTING God

& Ultimately - the CONSEQUENCE

was God REMOVING THEM from the Promised Land
& Sending them into CAPTIVITY - For 70 YEARS

THAT is the Setting in which the Book of Daniel - Takes Place

But HERE is The GOOD NEWS

The Book of Daniel - Is Primarily about God's SOVEREIGNTY
Over People - & Nations

It's about the Fact that God is IN CONTROL
No MATTER what things look like around you

& it's about the Fact that God has a PLAN !!

God has a Specific & a Perfect Plan
To bring HIS Good Will - TO PASS

& The Book of Daniel is about - US SERVING God
RIGHT Where we Find ourselves

No MATTER what the CULTURE is Like

No MATTER what the SITUATION is Like

No MATTER what the PEOPLE around us are Like

The Book of Daniel is about

Knowing that God is STILL on the THRONE

Knowing that God is INVOLVED

Knowing that God Has a PLAN

**AND . . . The Book of Daniel is ABOUT
Knowing - that YOU have a CHOICE**

to **Either FOLLOW GOD - AGAINST the FLOW**
- Or REJECT GOD - & FOLLOW The World

& SO the STAGE is SET for the Book of Daniel

**By Israel being DRIVEN OUT of the PROMISED LAND
& taken CAPTIVE into BABYLON - For 70 Years**

As a **Direct Consequence** for their **Rebellion & Rejection of God**

TURN over to Jeremiah (*3 books to left of Dan*)

**& Listen to Jeremiah's Clear Prophecy
Against the Remaining Two Tribes of Israel (*called Judah*)**

Jeremiah 25:1–11 (NLT)

1 This message for all the people of Judah came to Jeremiah from the Lord during the fourth year of Jehoiakim's reign over Judah. This was the year when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon began his reign.

2 Jeremiah the prophet said to all the people in Judah and Jerusalem,

3 "For the past twenty-three years—from the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah, until now—the Lord has been giving me his messages. I have faithfully passed them on to you, but you have not listened.

4 "Again and again the Lord has sent you his servants, the prophets, but you have not listened or even paid attention.

5 Each time the message was this: 'Turn from the evil road you are traveling and from the evil things you are doing. Only then will

I let you live in this land that the Lord gave to you and your ancestors forever.

6 Do not provoke my anger by worshiping idols you made with your own hands. Then I will not harm you.'

7 "But you would not listen to me," says the Lord. "You made me furious by worshiping idols you made with your own hands, bringing on yourselves all the disasters you now suffer.

8 And now the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Because you have not listened to me,

9 I will gather together all the armies of the north under King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, whom I have appointed as my deputy (servant). I will bring them all against this land and its people and against the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy you and make you an object of horror and contempt and a ruin forever.

10 I will take away your happy singing and laughter. The joyful voices of bridegrooms and brides will no longer be heard. Your millstones (grinding) will fall silent, and the lights in your homes will go out.

11 This entire land will become a desolate wasteland. Israel and her neighboring lands will serve the king of Babylon for seventy years.

**Israel was REMOVED from the Promised Land
& Sent as CAPTIVES - into Babylon**

As a Direct RESULT - of their Rebellion & Rejection of God

But - Our God is an Incredibly Merciful God

& God has a PLAN to show MERCY & Give HOPE
Even after 350 yrs of Israel's Rebellion & Rejection

& if YOU have been Rebelling & Rejecting God for 350 years

God still has a PLAN for YOU

A Plan to Show You MERCY - & Give You HOPE

Listen to What God says

As Jeremiah CONTINUES His Prophecy Against Israel

Flip Over to Jeremiah 29:10–11 (NLT)

*10 This is what the Lord says: "You will be in Babylon for seventy years. (That's when the Book of Daniel takes place) **But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again.***

11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

WAIT a MINUTE - That's a FAMOUS VS

Are you telling me that Famous Vs - comes on the HEELS
of God bringing the Consequences of 350 Yrs of Israel's Sins

YEP, I SURE AM

BEFORE their Consequences even HIT THEM - God says:

I have a PLAN for YOUR GOOD -

on the other SIDE - of the Consequences of your SIN

We thought Jer 29:11 was for Graduates - & Depressed People
& its ALL well & good to use in those situations

But Jer 29:11 is actually God's PROMISE - That FOLLOWS
God's People Experiencing the Consequences of their SIN

**It doesn't get much BETTER than THAT, Does it?
& look at How this Promise ENDS**

Jeremiah 29:12–14 (NLT)

12 In those days when you pray, I will listen.

13 If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

14 I will be found by you," says the Lord. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land."

**Guys - God is IN Control - & Has a Plan for Our GOOD
EVEN when we are Experiencing the Consequences of our SIN**

**THAT is the Condition of the Nation of Israel
as we go into the Book of Daniel**

**& MAYBE - that is YOUR Condition -
as we go into the Book of Daniel**

**If YOU are experiencing
the Consequences of YOUR Sin (*or are about to*)**

**KNOW that God's Plan for you - is for GOOD, & NOT for Disaster -
to Give you a FUTURE & a HOPE**

**ALL you have to do - is LOOK for Him WHOLEHEARTEDLY
& You will FIND HIM**

**& He will END your Captivity to SIN - & RESTORE YOU
& Bring you HOME again - to your own Land - WITH HIM**

Let's Pray