

Book of Daniel

Week One

The overall theme of the book of Daniel is God's sovereignty over all things whether in Babylon or Jerusalem. The book of Daniel was primarily written to the Hebrew population that had been taken into exile during the Babylonian Diaspora. The book is both theological instruction in the faithfulness of God to His covenantal people as well as an exhortation to the Hebrew captives to imitate the faithfulness, wisdom, piety of Daniel and his three friends.

1. History of the Book of Daniel.
 - a. Daniel amongst first captives from Judah around the year 607 B.C.
 - b. Daniel 15-16 years old when taken.
 - c. King Jehoiakim (609-597 B.C.) was installed as a puppet king by Pharaoh Neco of Egypt after death of King Josiah.
 - d. Nebuchadnezzar II considered one of the greatest kings of ancient times. He ruled 605-562 B.C.
 - e. Israelites were captive for approximately 70 years.
2. God's Sovereignty in First Chapter
 - a. Verse 2: God gave them into his hands.
Natan="to give" "hand over in judgment"
 - b. Verse 9: God gave Daniel favor
 - c. Verse 17: God gave them learning and wisdom

More significant for the Hebrews was the crisis of how do they behave as a people, hold to the faith, when they have lost their land, king, and temple in one fell swoop. How do they live as a minority group in an alien majority culture? How are they to fit in without being swallowed up?

3. Meet the Main Characters
 - a. Daniel (God is my judge) → Belteshazzar (Bel: ie Marduk (*supreme god*) protects my life)
 - b. Hananiah (Yahweh has been gracious → Shadrach (I am fearful of Aku (moon god)
 - c. Mishael (Who is/What is God) → Meshach (Who is What Aku is)
 - d. Azariah (Yahweh has helped) → Abednego (Servant of Nabu (son of Marduk))
4. History of Indoctrination of Royal Servants (Wisemen)
 - a. Why they did it?
 - b. What was their goal?
 - c. How they did it?
 - d. Who they picked for the program and why?
 - e. What did they study?
5. 1st Conflict Food & Wine
 - a. Daniel Resolved=deliberate act of will motivated by a deep seated personal conviction
 - b. Not to Defile= Make unclean. Daniel clean by faith in God & forgiveness of God. Clean from idolatry and moral pollution.
 - c. Real problem
 - d. Let's Make A Deal!
 - e. Outcome of the Deal.