

WEEK 7 | DANIEL

DANIEL

The book of Daniel is a powerful combination of narrative history and prophetic declaration that demonstrates God’s sovereignty over the affairs of men. At the age of fifteen Daniel was taken into exile in Babylon (Dan 1:1-7), where he would be trained and drafted into the service of pagan empires. Daniel and his friends provide a model of faithfulness in the face of unbelieving opposition to the kingdom of God. As a prophet, Daniel becomes God’s mouthpiece, describing the future course of human history from his time until the end of the age. In all this, one thing becomes eminently clear: God is sovereign over all. He alone elevates kings and abases kings; He alone raises up nations and tears nations down. He is the Lord of history.

The latter half of the book of Daniel is a prophetic description of the rest of history from Daniel’s day to the eschaton. In it, God makes clear that much of history will be dominated by gentile nations (“the time of the gentiles,” Lk 21:24), but at the end of the age God will conquer and subdue the rebellious nations set against Him (2:44; 7:22) and establish His kingdom, the final, ultimate, and everlasting kingdom of human history given to “the saints of the Most High” (7:27).

The Historical Background of Daniel

Chapter in Daniel	Date of Events/Visions	Approximate Age of Daniel
1	605 B.C.	15
2	603/2 B.C.	17/18
3	602 B.C.	18
4	570-63 B.C.	50-57
5	539 B.C.	81
6	537 B.C.	83
7	553 B.C.	67
8	551 B.C.	69
9	539 B.C.	81
10-12	536 B.C.	84

STRUCTURE

The Godly Remnant of Israel	The Prophetic Course of Gentile Dominion	The Prophetic Course of Israel during Gentile Dominion
<i>Hebrew</i>	<i>Aramaic</i>	<i>Hebrew</i>
Shinar (1:4; cf. Gen. 10:10; 11:2) Language (1:4; cf. Gen. 10:5, 20, 31; 11:1-9) 1:1	2:1(4)	8:1

PURPOSE

Daniel presents the future course of human history God has sovereignly determined, spanning the time of gentile domination to the establishment of God's kingdom on earth.

THEMES

- 1) Sovereignty of God over the Kingdoms of Man (2-11; *4:17)
- 2) Israel as a Remnant Subject to the Gentiles (1, 9) ["the times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24)]
- 3) The Progression of Gentile Kingdoms (2, 7)
- 4) The Pride of Gentile Kings (2-5, 7-8, 11)
- 5) The Ultimate Establishment of God's Kingdom (2, 7, 12)

Major and Minor Prophets

