



Go for God!

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Introduction & Chapter 1

“The Rise and Fall of World Empires!”

> **Date: 605 – 536 B.C.**

> **Author: Daniel the Prophet** – Daniel is “*God is my Judge*”

> **Insight on *The Book of Daniel*** - Like Revelation in the New Testament is an *apocalypse*, which means *unveiling or disclosure*. Daniel is a book of kings and kingdoms, of thrones and dominions, a book of history, a book of prophecy, a book of spiritual warfare, a book of consecration, and a book of faith.

We arrive at Daniel’s life at around 15 to 19 years old, he was taken as a P.O.W. by the Babylonians, and hauled back to Babylon where spent the next 60 to 70 years, it is believed he died near the ripe old age of ninety. In all those years, he grew stronger in his commitment to God. As a servant in Nebuchadnezzar's court, Daniel may have been castrated and made into a **EUNUCH (Daniel 1:3-4)**, as was common in those days. But the text does not specify that this happened.

> **Theme of *The Book of Daniel***: There are two basic themes throughout Daniel:

- (1) God upholds His people through dark adversity,
- (2) The kingdom of God will be victorious over the world’s kingdoms and kingdom overall, throughout history and at the end of the age.

> **Key Word: *God’s plan for Israel***

> **Key Chapter: Chapter 9** – Daniel’s prophecy of the “**Seventy Weeks**” (9:24-27) provides the chronological frame for messianic prediction from the time of Daniel to the establishment of the kingdom on earth.

> **Key verses: Daniel 2:20-22-** *Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise; And knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.*

Daniel 2:44-45- *And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.*

> **Historical Background:** Daniel lived during three major empires, from 605 – 530 B.C. He lived during the closing days of the Assyrian Empire, then throughout the Babylonian Empire, and the Medo-Persian Empire; while prophesying of the Greek and Roman Empires; and the end of the age.

- The Babylonian Empire existed from 605 to 539 B.C. During this period, the small kingdom of Judah ended, and the people were exiled to Babylonia. Daniel lived under the following Babylonian kings:

Nebuchadnezzar (605 – 562 B.C.)

Evil-Merodach (562 – 560 B.C.)

Neriglissar (560 – 556 B.C.)

Larasi-Marduk (556 B.C.)

Nabonidus (556 – 539 B.C.)

- The Persian Empire was established under Cyrus the Great in 539 B.C., this is when they captured Babylon. The captive Jewish people were allowed to return to Jerusalem in 536 B.C. The Medo-Persian period lasted from 539 – 331 B.C.

- Daniel prophesied of the Grecian Empire (Alexander the Great), which existed from 336 - 323 B.C. Then the Roman Empire began in 63 B.C., and the developing Revived Roman Empire 2000 A.D. to present, then into the Great Tribulation.

> **Christ in *The Book of Daniel*:** Christ is the *Great Stone* who will crush the kingdoms of this world (2:34-35,44), the *Son of Man* who is given dominion by the *Ancient of Days* (7:13-14), and the coming Messiah who will be *cut off* (9:25-26). It is likely that Daniel's vision (10:5-9) was an appearance of Christ (cf. Rev. 1:12-16).

> **Jesus referred to Daniel as a Prophet in Matthew 24:15-22 -**
"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were

shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.” (also Mark 13:14)

> **DANIEL OUTLINE:**

Part I - The Personal History of Daniel (Chapter 1)

Part II - The Prophetic Plan for the Gentiles (Chapters 2 – 7)

Part III - The Prophetic Plan for Israel (Chapters 8 – 12)

> **EIGHT T's FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP IN DANIEL:**

1. **TRAINING** – CH. 1 (Christian education!)
2. **TRUTH** – CH. 2 (Prophecy - The Image of world empires!)
3. **TRUSTED FRIENDS** – CH. 3 (Faith - Three Hebrews in the fiery furnace!)
4. **TEMPTATION** – CH. 4 & 5 – (Understanding the hand and will of God!)
5. **TESTING** – CH. 6:10-28 (Be an Overcomer - Lion's den experience!)
6. **TESTIMONY** – CH. 9 (Study (2); Prayer (v3-19); Prophecy (v20-27))
7. **TOUGHNESS** – CH. 10 (Prayer & fasting in the Kingdom of God!)
8. **TRIUMPH** – CH. 12:13 (Victory!)

> **Chapter 1 - “DANIEL’S TRAINING & TEST - IMONY!”**

> **FOUR Ts in the “TEST – IMONY” OF DANIEL:**

(v1-2) The **TIME** - 605 B.C. – Daniel, the right young man, in the right place, at the right **TIME!**

(v3-7) The **TRAINING** (DANIEL's discipline / DANIEL the disciple)

- **Character Study:**

(1) No **BLEMISH!** (Morally pure, probably a virgin.)

(2) Good **LOOKING!** (Well groomed.)

(3) Gifted in all **WISDOM!**

- **Let us define WISDOM** – Wisdom is the ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding. The biblical concept of wisdom, therefore, is quite different from the classical view of wisdom, which sought through philosophy and man's rational thought to determine the mysteries of existence and the universe. **The first principle of biblical wisdom is that man should humble himself before God in reverence and worship, obedient to His commands.** (Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

- (4) Possessing **KNOWLEDGE!**
- (5) Quick to **UNDERSTAND!** (PHCA motto – “Committed to God & Academic Excellence!”)
- (6) Willingness to **SERVE!**
- (7) **TEACHABLE!**

- **How did these four young Hebrews possess such CHARACTER and SKILLS**

at such an early age? There are two key factors:

Key #1 – PARENTAL INSTRUCTION – Deuteronomy Ch. 6

Key #2 – PERSONAL DESIRE - Psalm 1; Proverbs 1:1-7; Matthew 7:24-27

- Remember Proverbs 22:6 - *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

(v7) What is in a **Hebrew** name:

- Daniel (*God is my judge*)
- Hananiah (*The grace of Jah (Jehovah)*)
- Mishael (*Who is what God is*)
- Azariah (*Helped of Jah (Jehovah)*)

What is in a **Babylonian** name:

- Daniel – Belteshazzar (*May Bel protect his life*)
- Hananiah – Shadrach (*To be illumined by the sun deity*)
- Mishael – Meshach (*who is what aku is*)
- Azariah – Abed-Nego (*A servant of Nebo*)

(v8-16) The **TEST** – Daniel’s two disciplines:

#1 – Daniel **PURPOSED** in his heart that he would not **DEFILE** himself.

#2 – **God brought Daniel FAVOR and GOODWILL** with his captor.

(v17-21) The **TRIUMPH!** – **DEDICATION** to God brings **EXALTATION** from God!

- Notice verse 17 - **God gave them KNOWLEDGE & SKILL** in all literature and wisdom.

- **God gave Daniel a special ability to interpret VISIONS & DREAMS.**

> **Observe these New Testament references for a life of EXCELLANCE!**

- Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- Romans 12:1-3 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- Philippians 1:6 - being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ

- Philippians 4:8-9- Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

- Philippians 4:11-13 - Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- Philippians 4:19-20 - And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

“GO4GOD!”