Abide Deeper – The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

Three Parts

Part 1: The Holy Spirit Is a Real Person and Is God

Part 2: The Working of the Holy Spirit

Part 3: What the Holy Spirit Does

Part 1: The Holy Spirit Is a Real Person and Is God

A. Why this is important.

Many of the wrong (unbiblical) ideas about the Holy Spirit, and the wrong (unbiblical) works claimed to be done by the Holy Spirit are rooted in the failure to understand the person and the deity of the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit is regarded as a "thing" that can be thrown or cast.
- The Holy Spirit is thought of as an impersonal power that we can use.
- The Holy Spirit isn't regarded as God, who has a sovereign will.

B. The personality of the Holy Spirit – the Holy Spirit is not an "It" or impersonal force.

- 1. The Holy Spirit is never referred to an "it" but as a *He* and a *who*.
 - a. Jesus used the pronouns "He" and "Him" to refer to the Holy Spirit.

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17)

b. The apostles referred to the Holy Spirit as a who (or whom), not a "that."

And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him. (Acts 5:32)

- 2. The Holy Spirit has distinct characteristics that can only be attributed to a person.
 - a. The Holy Spirit has a will (1 Corinthians 12:11)

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. (1 Corinthians 12:11)

b. The Holy Spirit can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30)

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)

c. The Holy Spirit can be lied to (Acts 5:3)

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?" (Acts 5:3)

d. The Holy Spirit speaks (Revelation 2:7)

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (Revelation 2:7a)

e. The Holy Spirit loves (Romans 15:30)

Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me (Romans 15:30)

f. The Holy Spirit makes intercession (prays) and has a mind (Romans 8:26-27)

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27)

- C. The deity of the Holy Spirit the Holy Spirit is God.
- 1. The Holy Spirit is plainly called God (Acts 5:3-4; Matthew 12:31-32)

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." (Acts 5:3-4)

"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come. (Matthew 12:31-32)

- 2. The Holy Spirit has attributes that only God has.
 - a. The Holy Spirit is omnipresent, able to be and go everywhere (Psalm 139:7-10)

Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend into heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.
If I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there Your hand shall lead me,
And Your right hand shall hold me. (Psalm 139:7-10)

b. The Holy Spirit is omniscient, knowing all things (1 Corinthians 2:10-11)

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. (1 Corinthians 2:10-11)

c. The Holy Spirit is omnipotent, having all power (Luke 1:35)

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:35)

d. The Holy Spirit is eternal in His being with no beginning or end (Hebrews 9:14)

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:14)

e. The Holy Spirit is independent and sovereign (Isaiah 40:13)

Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has taught Him? (Isaiah 40:13)

- 3. The Holy Spirit is called Yahweh (the LORD, Jehovah).
 - a. Hebrews 10:15-16 quotes Jeremiah 31:31-33 and attributes the words Yahweh spoke in Jeremiah 31 to the Holy Spirit.

But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," (Hebrews 10:15-16)

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. (Jeremiah 31:31-33)

b. Acts 28:25-26 quotes Isaiah 6:8-9 and attributes the words Yahweh spoke in Isaiah 6:8-9 to the Holy Spirit.

So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, saying,

Go to this people and say:

"Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive (Acts 28:25-26)

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:
"Whom shall I send,
And who will go for Us?"
Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."
And He said, "Go, and tell this people:
'Keep on hearing, but do not understand;
Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' (Isaiah 6:8-9)

- 4. The Holy Spirit is mentioned several times as in distinction yet union with the Father and the Son.
 - a. Matthew 28:19: The great commission spoken by Jesus.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)

b. John 1:33-34: John the Baptist's description of the baptism of Jesus.

I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on

Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." (John 1:33-34)

c. John 14:16: Jesus promise of the Holy Spirit.

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever (John 14:16)

d. Acts 2:33: Peter's promise of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. (Acts 2:33)

e. Romans 15:16: Paul's description of his ministry.

That I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:16)

f. Ephesians 3:14-16: Paul's prayer for the Ephesian Christians.

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, (Ephesians 3:14-16)

g. 1 Peter 1:2: Peter's greeting to his readers.

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied. (1 Peter 1:2)

Part 2: The Working of the Holy Spirit

A. The Holy Spirit's work in the individual believer.

1. The Holy Spirit lives inside the believer (John 14:17); the indwelling Holy Spirit is a characteristic of every genuine Christian (Romans 8:9)

The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:17)

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. (Romans 8:9)

2. The Christian's body is said to be a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19; 3:16)

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? (1 Corinthians 6:19)

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)

3. We are to continually seek the filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

4. The individual who is filled with the Holy Spirit will be characterized by an increasing display of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

5. The measure of God's giving of the Holy Spirit is abundant (Titus 3:6) and the individual's experience of the Holy Spirit is to be abundant (John 7:38-39), so much so that there is an outflow as well as a filling

Whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior (Titus 3:6)

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:38-39)

6. The filling of the Holy Spirit is seen as a preparation for service and ministry (Acts 1:8; 2:4; 4:31-33)

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:4)

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. (Acts 4:31-33)

B. The Holy Spirit's work in the gathering of believers

1. The Holy Spirit is *always* present among true Christians (John 14:16), but sometimes in greater measure (Acts 2:1-4; 4:31) and sometimes in manifestations accessible by physical senses (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever (John 14:16)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:31)

- 2. No matter how the Holy Spirit is present among believers, His purpose is always the same and His working will always be consistent with His character
 - a. The Holy Spirit's purpose is to show us Jesus (John 15:26; 16:13-14).

But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. (John 15:16)

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. (John 16:13-14)

b. The Holy Spirit's purpose is to build up the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7).

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all (1 Corinthians 12:7)

c. The Holy Spirit's purpose is to develop fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23),

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Part 3: What the Holy Spirit Does

A. The Holy Spirit is a witness and teacher of the truth

1. The Holy Spirit convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7-11; Acts 2:36-37)

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (John 16:7-11)

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:36-37)

2. The Holy Spirit guides the believer into truth, glorifying Jesus (John 16:13-14)

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. (John 16:13-14)

3. The Holy Spirit teaches the believer (1 Corinthians 2:9-13)

But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

Nor have entered into the heart of man

The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows

the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. (1 Corinthians 2:9-13)

4. The Holy Spirit reminds the believer of the Word of God (John 14:26)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. (John 14:26)

5. The Holy Spirit is a witness to our relationship with God (Romans 8:16; Galatians 4:6)

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:16)

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" (Galatians 4:6)

- B. The Holy Spirit gives the believer help and power
- 1. The Holy Spirit is an abiding helper and advocate (John 14:16)

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever (John 14:16)

2. The Holy Spirit helps us as we pray (Romans 8:26-27)

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27)

3. The Holy Spirit gives guidance (Romans 8:14; Acts 13:2-4)

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Romans 8:14)

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. (Acts 13:2-4)

4. The Holy Spirit washes and regenerates the believer (Titus 3:5)

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)

5. The Holy Spirit strengthens the believer (Ephesians 3:16)

That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man (Ephesians 3:16)

6. The Holy Spirit gives power to be a witness (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

7. The Holy Spirit is a giver of supernatural gifts to individuals for the health and growth of the entire church (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

Abide Deeper: The Major Prophets

- The distinction between "Major Prophets" and "Minor Prophets" isn't found in the Hebrew Bible. The Hebrew Bible groups them all together as "the prophets."
- We use the distinction as simply a way to organize the books of the prophets.
- They aren't "major" in the sense of being more successful prophets, more important, or more inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- They are "major" in the sense of being longer (and, unintentionally more prominent).
- The prophets (Major and Minor) are among the most avoided books of the Bible!
- Lots of warning, lots of judgment but also lots of grace, and many promises of restoration, redemption, and most importantly the Messiah.
- These are prophets of the divided kingdom. Isaiah was mostly to Judah, and before the fall of Judah (he was alive for the fall of Israel to Assyria). Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel deal with the fall of Judah to the Babylonians and at least some of the period of exile.

The Book of Isaiah

Has Been Called....

- The Fifth Gospel
- The Miniature Bible
- The Shakespeare of the Prophets
- The Paul of the Old Testament
- The Evangelical Prophet

Broad Outline of Isaiah

- Chapters 1–36: Prophecies of Condemnation
- Chapters 37–39: Historical Interlude: Hezekiah's Salvation, Sickness, and Sin
- Chapters 40–66: Prophecies of Comfort

Some Quick Facts About Isaiah

- "Isaiah" is a shortened name from the phrase, "Yahweh is Salvation" as is the name "Joshua" or "Jesus."
- Isaiah has 66 chapters the same as the number of books in the Bible.
- Isaiah's first 39 chapters emphasize God's judgment more (like the 39 books of the Old Testament).
- Isaiah's second 27 chapters emphasize God's grace and restoration (like the 27 books of the New Testament).
- Isaiah had a wife, and she was a prophetess (8:3).
- Isaiah had two sons (7:3).

- Many scholars believe that Isaiah is the one mentioned in Hebrews 11:37 who was martyred by being sawn in two.
- The word "salvation" appears twenty-six times in Isaiah but only seven times in all the other prophets combined

The Christ of Isaiah

 There are at least 16 messianic prophecies in Isaiah that are specifically fulfilled in the New Testament.

The great messianic prophecy of Isaiah 52:13 through 53:12 is made up of five stanzas.

- Stanza 1 (52:13-15): Jesus' wholehearted sacrifice (corresponding to the burnt offering)
- Stanza 2 (53:1-3): Jesus' perfect character (corresponding to the meal offering)
- Stanza 3 (53:4-6): Jesus provides atonement that brings us peace with God (corresponding to the peace offering)
- Stanza 4 (53:7-9): Jesus paid for the transgression of the people (corresponding to the sin offering)
- Stanza 5 (53:10-12): Jesus died for the effects of sin (corresponding to the trespass offering)

The Book of Jeremiah

Broad Outline of Jeremiah

- Chapter 1: The Call of Jeremiah
- Chapters 2–45: Prophecies to Judah
- Chapters 46–51: Prophecies to the Gentiles
- Chapter 52: The Fall of Jerusalem

Some Quick Facts About Jeremiah

- Jeremiah was a priest (1:1)
- Jeremiah's name means, "Yahweh Throws" or "Yahweh Establishes" (in the sense of "throwing" down a foundation) or "Yahweh Sends" (in the sense of "throwing" out someone sent)
- Jeremiah was from the town of Anathoth, only three miles from Jerusalem (1:1)
- God didn't allow Jeremiah to marry (16:2)
- Jeremiah was a contemporary of Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel, and Ezekiel
- Perhaps Jeremiah's only "convert" or "success story" was Ebed-Melech the Ethiopian (39:15-18, "because you have put your trust in Me")
- The prophet Daniel read the book of Jeremiah (Daniel 9:2)
- Jeremiah is not arranged chronologically

- Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in three stages; Jeremiah was present for all three stages, seeing the final Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem with his own eyes.
- By most chronologies, Jeremiah was about 20 years older than Ezekiel and Daniel.

The Christ of Jeremiah

- Jesus is the coming Shepherd and Righteous Branch (23:1-8)
- Jesus is the One called THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (23:5-6)
- Jesus brings in the New Covenant (31:31-34)
- Jesus triumphed over the curse on the line of David on account of Jeconiah (Coniah) described in 22:28-30

The Book of Lamentations

Broad Outline

- Chapter 1: The Destruction of Jerusalem
- Chapter 2: The Anger of Yahweh
- Chapter 3: A Prayer for Mercy
- Chapter 4: The Siege of Jerusalem
- Chapter 5: A Prayer for Restoration

Some Quick Facts About Lamentations

- Each chapter of Lamentation is acrostic, progressing through the Hebrew alphabet.
- The Hebrew name for Lamentations is "Ah, how!" coming from the first verses of chapters 1, 2, and 4.
- Jeremiah wrote this sad book as an eyewitness to the fall of Jerusalem, conquered by the Babylonians.

The Christ of Lamentations

 The weeping prophet Jeremiah is a picture of Jesus, the Prophet who wept over the same city six centuries later (Matthew 23:37, 38)

The Book of Ezekiel

Broad Outline

Chapters 1-3: The Commission of Ezekiel

- Chapters 4-24: God's Judgment on Judah
- Chapters 25-32: God's Judgment on the Gentiles
- Chapters 33-48: The Restoration of Israel

Some Quick Facts About Ezekiel

- Ezekiel, like Jeremiah, was both a priest and prophet
- The name "Ezekiel" means "God Strengthens" or "Strengthened by God."
- Ezekiel was actually carried away in the exile, going to Babylon
- More than most other prophets, Ezekiel uses prophecies, parables, signs, and symbols to dramatize God's message to His exiled people
- The death of Ezekiel's wife when Nebuchadnezzar began his final siege on Jerusalem was used as a sign to God's people (24:16–24)
- Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in three stages. Ezekiel was taken in the second stage, along with 10,000 exiles (597 B.C.)
- By most chronologies, Ezekiel and Daniel were born about the same time.
- Daniel is mentioned three times in Ezekiel's prophecy (14:14, 20; 28:3)
- Ezekiel's Babylonian home was at Tel Abib, the principal colony of Jewish exiles along the River Chebar
- Ezekiel's prophecies told the exiles that Israel would not be restored to glory soon, but they would certainly one day be restored to glory

The Christ of Ezekiel

- Jesus is the tender twig that becomes a stately cedar (11:1)
- Jesus is Messiah the King who rules (21:26-27)
- Jesus is the true Shepherd who will deliver and feed His flock (34:11-31)

The Book of Daniel

Broad Outline

- Chapter 1: History of Daniel
- Chapters 2-7: God's Prophetic Plan for the Gentiles (Aramaic)
- Chapters 8-12: God's Prophetic Plan for Israel (Hebrew)

Some Quick Facts About Daniel

- The name "Daniel" means "God Is My Judge"
- Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in three stages. Daniel and his friends were taken to Babylon as hostages in the first stage (605 B.C.)
- Daniel's life and ministry bridge the entire seventy-year period of Babylonian captivity
- Nine of the twelve chapters in his book revolve around dreams

- Daniel includes visions involving trees, animals, beasts, and statues
- Daniel 2 through 7 are written in Aramaic.
- Daniel 4 was written by Nebuchadnezzar, a pagan king!
- The book of Daniel has been a special target of critics, because its prophecies have been so exactly fulfilled that they insist they were written after the fact, not before!
- Daniel is probably the comprehensive prophetic book of the Old Testament

The Christ of Daniel

- Jesus is the Great Stone who will crush the kingdoms of this world (2:34, 35, 44)
- Jesus is the Son of Man who is given dominion by the Ancient of Days (7:13, 14)
- Jesus is the coming Messiah who will be cut off (9:25, 26)
- Daniel's prophecy of the 70 weeks (seven-year periods) appointed for Israel exactly predicted when Jesus the Messiah would be presented to Israel.