

#22 Daniel | July 22, 2018

Daniel's Life and Times

- Daniel was taken captive to Babylon in 609 BC in a move by Nebuchadnezzar that was prophesied by Isaiah during the years of King Hezekiah – 2 Kings 20:16-19, Daniel 1:1-4.
 - Nebuchadnezzar was able to free Babylon from 300 years of Assyrian control, and soon took over much of the world.
 - Nebuchadnezzar's most famous achievements were the destruction of Jerusalem and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.
- Daniel was one of the first exiles and left for Babylon 23 years before the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC.
- Three of Daniel's friends were also exiled: *Hanniniah, Mishael, and Azariah*, better known by their new Babylonian names, *Shadrach, Meshack, and Abed-nego*. Daniel's Babylonian name was Belteshazzar.
- Daniel lived his entire life in Babylon, and died as an old man somewhere around the time of the return of the exiles.

Daniel's Most Important Revelations

- The revelation of the empires: Daniel 2:1-49
 - Daniel was given opportunity to tell Nebuchadnezzar the contents and the interpretation of his dream.
 - In the dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a colossal statue, with a head of gold, arms and chest of silver, torso of bronze, and legs of steel becoming clay at the feet and toes.
 - Daniel interpreted the dream, revealing four Kingdoms, one which was current, three which were to come, and one final Kingdom of God (Dan. 2:37-45).
 - The Kingdom's are now understood to be Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.
 - This passage of Scripture is fundamental to a knowledge of prophecy.
- The revelation of 70 weeks: Daniel 9:24-27
 - Daniel was praying about Jeremiah's 70 years when the Angel Gabriel was sent to explain to Daniel a period of 70 sets of seven years.

- The prophecy concerns 70 *septads* (a set of seven) which has been translated **weeks** in the KJV and is the common designation for this period of 490 years (70x7).
- At the end of the 70th week, **everlasting righteousness** will be brought in, and **the most holy** will be anointed (v. 24).
- The 490 years takes place as follows:
 - The clock begins when a **commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem** is given (v. 25).
 - From that time until Messiah there will be 69 weeks, divided into two portions of 7 and 62, with the 7 weeks being the time to rebuild Jerusalem (v. 26).
 - After the 62 week period the Messiah will be **cut off and have nothing** (v. 26).
 - There is the vague but indiscernible hint of a pause between weeks 69 and 70 (vv. 26-27).
 - The 70th week is a time of trouble, divided into two halves during which **the prince that is to come** will carry out the desolations (v. 27).
- The revelation of the Greek empire: Daniel 11
 - This chapter gives amazing insight into the Greek Kingdom that would take place 200 years approximately after Daniel and 200 years before Christ's birth, thus this prophetic revelation was fulfilled by the time of the New Testament.
 - The accuracy of the history, given in advance, is so precise that it has caused skeptics to deny Daniel's authorship of the book.
 - The outline of Daniel 11 –
 - The Period from Persia to Alexander | Daniel 11:1-4
 - The Period from Alexander to Antiochus IV | Daniel 11:5-20
 - The Reign of Antiochus IV Euphianes | Daniel 11:21-35
 - The Willful King | Daniel 11:36-39
 - The Future Antichrist | Daniel 11:40-45

Things You May Not Know

- Daniel is one of the most hotly contested books in all the Bible. Liberal scholars work overtime to convince us that Daniel was not the author and that the content of the work was written hundreds of years after Daniel died.
- The book of Daniel is not in the prophet's section of the Jewish Scriptures, but rather in the *writings*.