

Daniel

Purpose: Those who remain outside the land should learn from Daniel's life how to remain devoted and have influence as they hope for the full restoration of Israel.

Outline: 1:1-6:28 – Stories of Daniel

7:1-12:13 – Visions of Daniel

Author: Daniel

Date: Daniel was taken into exile in 605, received revelation (10:1) in 537

Highlights:

Daniel is about God's sovereignty (God vs. gods). Daniel is also about modeling fidelity outside of the Land (i.e. Joseph, and Esther ["we are in the world, but not of the world"]).

PROPHECIES ALREADY FULFILLED – *Original Meaning:* Israelites can look back and see Daniel's prophecies in process. *NT Elaboration:* Many of Daniel's prophecies have been fulfilled. *Contemporary Application:* We must see that many of Daniel's prophecies have occurred.

PROPHECIES AWAITING FULFILLMENT – *Original Meaning:* Israelites must look forward in hope. *NT Elaboration:* Christ teaches His followers to look forward through Daniel's prophecies. *Contemporary Application:* We must hope in the fulfillment to come.

Stories of Daniel [Others have visions and Daniel interprets] (1:1-6:28)

Activities of Daniel and Company during Nebuchadnezzar's Reign (1:1-4:37)

Nebuchadnezzar's Training of Daniel and Company (1:1-21) [605 B.C.]

{Daniel and company exalted because they remain undefiled}

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Statue (2:1-49) [604 B.C.]

{Daniel and company exalted because God gives revelation}

Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Idol (3:1-30) [604-562 B.C.]

{Company exalted because they are devoted to Yahweh alone even under threat}

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the Tree (4:1-37) [604-562 B.C.]

{Daniel's interpretation came true and honors Yahweh by his devotion}

Activities of Daniel (alone) during Later Reigns (5:1-6:28)

Belshazzar's Banquet (5:1-31) [539 B.C.]

{Daniel is exalted because God gives revelation and it comes true}

Darius' (Cyrus') Den of Lions (6:1-28) [539-530 B.C.]

{Daniel is exalted because he is devoted to Yahweh alone even under threat }

Visions of Daniel [Daniel has visions of his own] (7:1-12:13)

Visions During Babylonian Period (7:1-8:27)

Vision of Four Beasts (7:1-28) [553 B.C. – King Belshazzar]

Vision of Ram and Goat (8:1-27) [550 B.C. – King Belshazzar]

Visions During Persian Period (9:1-12:13)

Revelation of Seventy "Sevens" (9:1-27) [539/8 B.C. – King Darius (Cyrus)]

Vision of Heavenly Messenger (10:1-12:13) [537/6 B.C. – King Darius (Cyrus)]

Alternative Approaches to Seventy "Sevens"

Covenantal Approach

Cyrus-----49 years-----Nehemiah-----434 Years-----Christ-----7-----70 AD

Dispensational Approach

Cyrus-----49 years-----Nehemiah-----434 Years-----Christ (gap of church age)---7 year tribulation
under Antichrist

"Abomination that Causes Desolation"

9:27 – Roman desecration of 70 A.D.

11:31 – Antiochus Epiphanes IV's idol of Zeus in 168 B.C.

12:11 – Roman desecration of 70 A.D.

Matthew 24:15 – Roman desecration of 70 A.D.

Parallels of Visions and Identifying the Four Kingdoms

Background of Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (2:1-49)	Vision of Four Beasts (7:1-28) [Emphasis on 4th]	Vision of Ram & Goat (8:1-27) [Emphasis 2nd & 3rd]	Identifications (Key Passage 8:20-21)
Head of Gold (2:32,37,38)	Lion (7:4,17)		Babylon
Chest and Arms of Silver (2:32,39)	Bear (7:5,17)	Ram (8:3,20)	Medo-Persia
Belly and Thighs of Bronze (2:32,39)	Leopard (7:6,17)	Goat (8:5,21-22)	Greece
Legs of Iron (2:33,40-43)	Beast of iron teeth and ten horns (7:7-8,23-25)		Rome
Rock and Mountain (2:34,35,44,45)	Saints of Most High, Ancient of Days, Son of Man (7:9,10,13,14,18,22,25,27)	Prince of Princes (8:25)	Kingdom of God

Babylonian Kingdom

Ruler of all (2:37-38)
Humbling of King(dom) (7:4)

Medio-Persian Kingdom

Inferior to Babylon (2:39)
Two horns {Medes and Persians} (8:3)
One side greater (7:5; 8:3)
Fulfilled desired aggressions (7:5; 8:4)
Destroyed by next kingdom (8:5-7)

Greek Kingdom

Rule over whole earth (2:39)
Great horn [Alexander the Great] from the West (8:5, 21)
Conquerors of Medio-Persian Kingdom (8:5-7)
Four lesser kingdoms [four heads(7:6)] follow (8:8,22)
Another king [Antiochus Epiphanes IV (168-164 BC)] will crush Israel (8:9-12,23-25)
Desecrates temple [idol of Zeus in 168 BC] (8:13)
Destroyed by God (8:25)
Temple reconsecrated (8:14)

Roman (Unnamed) Kingdom

Crushes previous kingdoms (2:40; 7:7,19,23)
Covers whole world (7:23)
Strong & Weak (2:41-43)
Ten kings arise (7:7,24)
11th king will persecute Israel and disrupt worship for a short while (7:25) (cf. Daniel 12:7 and Matthew 24:22) [Events of 70 A.D. fulfill this scenario]
God will destroy and replace with His Kingdom (7:23,26,27)