

Old Testament Introduction

The Book of Daniel

Jerry Akers

INTRODUCTION

- 1) The name Daniel means “_____.” It is interesting to note that God called a man by this name to prophesy during God’s _____ on His people—the 70 year Babylonian captivity.
- 2) Daniel was among the Jewish captives of the first deportation in _____ B. C. He lived in Babylon during the entire 70 year captivity period. Daniel was given the name “*Belteshazzar*” by one of eunuchs of Nebuchadnezzar’s court (**1:7**). This name means “_____,” which was a name honoring one of Babylon’s pagan gods (**Isaiah 46:1**). During the time of his captivity, he was not only a public State servant, but he was also a prophet of God. His prophecies are among the most remarkable in the whole of the Bible.
- 3) Daniel is Bible book most frequently attacked by the critics. They attempt to change the date of writing and authorship of Daniel in order to make it a _____ book rather than a _____ book. By doing this, the need to believe in the Divine inspiration of Scripture and the miraculous element of prophecy is eliminated.
- 4) The Book of Daniel is the _____ to all Biblical prophecy. Apart from the great eschatological disclosures of this book, other prophetic portions of the Word of God would remain sealed. Jesus’ “*Olivet Discourse*” (**Matthew 24-25**), and the books of **2 Thessalonians** and **Revelation** can be unlocked only through an understanding of this important OT book.
- 5) Daniel is one of the apocalyptic books of the Bible. The word “*apocalypse*” means revelation or _____. These books reveal or unveil truth through dreams, visions, and symbols. Other apocalyptic books are **Ezekiel**, **Zechariah**, and **Revelation**.

AUTHORSHIP

- 1) The Book of Daniel is a battleground between _____ and _____. From the days of Porphyry (*a third century Platonic philosopher*) to this present day, a battle has raged over the authenticity and Danielic authorship of this book. Because of the fulfillment of prophecy to the finest detail, which to the unbeliever is impossible, and the alleged historical discrepancies, this book is denied by unbelieving critics. We believe that Daniel was the author of this book.
- **Internal evidence** supports Danielic authorship = **1:1ff; 7:1; 8:1; 9:1, 2; 10:1-2**
 - **External evidence** supports Danielic authorship = In **Matthew 24:15** Christ referred to the last section of the book as the work of Daniel.

RECIPIENTS

No specific audience is indicated, however, **2:4-7:28** is written in Aramaic indicating that it is material for the _____ world as well as the Jew, with the other portions being intended especially for the consolation of Israel.

DATE OF WRITING

Daniel was a contemporary of Jeremiah and Ezekiel. His book records events and visions dated between _____ B. C. and _____ B. C. when the prophet was probably about 90 years old.

PURPOSE OF BOOK

Historical purpose = Daniel’s prophecies served to comfort the exiled people of Israel with news that their nation would be _____. These prophecies also were meant as an encouragement to the Jews to withstand the command to worship the king (**Chapter 3**) and to remain true to the Lord God of Israel no matter how difficult the circumstances (**Chapter 6**).

Doctrinal purpose = The Book of Daniel condemns the “*beastly*” powers of the world while at the same time communicating the plan of God to set up His kingdom in this world. In so doing, Daniel teaches that history has a goal—that it is _____ -- _____ —and that God is sovereign over the affairs of this world.

Christological purpose = Christ is portrayed in the Book of Daniel the following ways:

- The coming Messiah (**9:26**)
- The great stone Who will crush the kingdoms of this world (**2:34-45**)
- The “*fourth Man*” in the fire (**3:25**)
- The Son of Man (**7:13**)
- The Ancient of Days (**7:22**)

THEME OF THE BOOK

The universal sovereignty of God.

OUTLINE

I. Historical Narration (*Daniel and his personal friends*)

1-6

II. Prophetical Revelation (*Daniel and his people's future*) **7-12**