

The Book of Daniel Introduction

Overview

1. Has been called one of “the most **EXPLOSIVE** books in all human history”.

Why?

2. It draws a line in the sand between **LIBERAL** and **LITERAL** views of the Bible.
3. Gives a view of God that contradicts what **SCHOLARS** believe.

Man’s View

- a. God is just a little higher than **MAN**.
- b. God is not in **COMPLETE** control of world events, He reacts or stays on the sidelines.
- c. Any fulfilled **PROPHECIES** are simply coincidence or are too vague to take seriously.
- d. **MIRACLES** of God never happen.
- e. **MOST** people are good, God doesn’t judge.

Daniel’s View

- a. God is totally self-sufficient, omniscient, and **OMNIPOTENT**.
- b. God is in **TOTAL** control of world affairs.
- c. God gives Daniel gives blunt, unshakeable, confident, and specific **PROPHECIES**.
- d. **MIRACLES** of God are unapologetically narrated.
- e. God does **DIFFERENTIATE** between His people and those who are not.

Historical Perspective

4. After **SOLOMON**, Israel fell away from God and split into **TWO** kingdoms.
5. The northern kingdom was called **ISRAEL**; the southern kingdom was called **JUDAH**.
6. Israel was conquered by **ASSYRIA** in 722 BC.

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7. Judah survived and remained completely sovereign until **605 BC**.
8. In the summer of **605**, the Babylonians crushed the **EGYPTIANS** under the leadership of their general, the son of the king of Babylon, whose name was **NEBUCHADNEZZAR**. Not one Egyptian survived the battle.
9. After winning this battle, Nebuchadnezzar asserted control over all the nearby kingdoms that were friendly with **EGYPT**, including **ISRAEL**.
10. Nebuchadnezzar did not **DESTROY** Judah, he merely besieged Judah, took some treasures and some **CAPTIVES** when...

Being informed ere long of his father's dath, Nebuchadnezzar settled the affairs of Egypt and the other countries. The prisoners – Jews, Phoenicians, Syrians, and those of Egyptian nationality – were consigned to some of his friends, with orders to conduct them to Babylonia, along with the heavy troops and the rest of the spoils; while he himself, with a small escort, pushed across the desert to Babylon.

- written originally by Berossus, a Babylonian priest, quoted by Josephus

11. **DANIEL** was among these prisoners taken to Babylon.
12. In **597 BC**, Nebuchadnezzar came back and captured Jerusalem without a battle. The king of Judah, Jehoiakim, was cut to pieces and left unburied outside the city walls. Nebuchadnezzar put Jehoiakin in charge for a time, but replaced him quickly with Zedekiah. The prophet **EZEKIEL** was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar during this time.
13. In **587**, Nebuchadnezzar again came back to Jerusalem. This time, they besieged the city for 18 months before finally breaking through the wall. King Zedekiah's sons were killed before his eyes, then Zedekiah was **BLINDED** and taken captive to Babylon.
14. Almost all of Israel were forced out of Israel. **JEREMIAH** the prophet was left in Israel, but was forced by the rest of the remnant to flee to Egypt.
15. By **581**, the land was emptied of all Jewish people.
16. This was the situation in which the Book of Daniel was written. Had God given up on Israel? Would they ever get their land back? God used **DANIEL** to reassure His people.