

INTRODUCTION TO Daniel

READ ALONG

☐ 06/08-06/12 Daniel 1-12

WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

- 24. JEREMIAH
- 25. LAMENTATIONS
- 26. EZEKIEL
- 27. **DANIEL**
- 28. HOSEA
- 29. JOEL
- 30. AMOS

KEY VERSES:

Daniel 2:20-21: *“May the name of God be praised forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him. He changes the times and seasons; He removes kings and establishes kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.”*

KEY THEMES

- The main theme of the book of Daniel is: God is sovereign over all human kingdoms, he cares for and has a future planned for his people in exile, and he will judge all the kings and kingdoms of this world.
- One of feature of this book that we don't recognize in our English translations the book is it was written in two different languages. Chapters 1, 8-12 were written in Hebrew while Chapters 2-7 were written in Aramaic. Aramaic was the language of the day for the region of Babylon. The different language suggest the Daniel wrote the Hebrew portion for Israel and the Aramaic for all people.
- The book tells stories about Daniel and his three friends, who remain faithful to their God as they develop influence in the Babylonian Empire and who God rescues.
- Evil beast(s) symbolizes human rulers that rebel against God. God ultimately defeats each one.
- God exults the humble and those who find refuge in him.
- The series of visions are about the rise and fall of human kingdoms.
- The focus on each is on God's judgment of the enemy and the glorious future kingdom awaiting his people.

BOOK BASICS



DATE
520 BC



TYPE
Apocalyptic



AUTHOR
Daniel

Daniel's name means "God is my Judge." He was captured by the Babylonians when Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, invaded Judah in 605 BC. This event took place during the first year of King Jehoiakim's reign (2 Kings 24:1). Jehoiakim submitted to him and paid him off with tribute and hostages, which included Daniel. His ministry continued for 69 years into the third year of Cyrus (10:1) (about 536 B.C.). If he were about sixteen at the time of captivity, he would have been eighty five when he made his last prophecy. It is not known when the book of Daniel was written. It is likely that the book was composed after the reign of Cyrus around 520 BC.

This book of Daniel was written to communicate that even though circumstances may argue the contrary, God is still, always has been, and always will be in control of his creation.

Daniel more than any other prophet requires us to know something about the historical background that is discussed. The book is filled with historical allusions to people and events. It even predicts details about coming ages that are so specific that the truthfulness of the prophecies are easily verifiable. Daniel prophesied during the dominion of two different empires: Babylon and Persia.

This apocalyptic literature reveals God, His will, and His works through visions, symbolism, angels, and cosmic events. It is often difficult to understand.

BASIC STRUCTURE

12 CHAPTERS

