

DANIEL (Student Edition)

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AUTHOR-

The author of this great book was most probably Daniel himself, and his name means, “_____”. He was _____ in one of the Babylonian raids against Judah to _____ where he lived for over 50 years. According to the opening chapter, he was most likely from an _____. Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, intelligent and promising, were placed in _____ as servants in the court of King Nebuchadnezzar; then their names and diets were changed to reflect _____ in an attempt to take away their _____. But Daniel and his friends rose to the challenge, and _____. The young men increased in wisdom and knowledge, gaining favor in the king's court.

WHEN THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN-

Although the siege and carrying away of captives into Babylon lasted several years, the mighty men of valor, the skilled, and the educated were taken from Jerusalem _____ (2 Kings 24:14). The date usually given for Daniel's captivity is _____. His prophecy covers the span of his life in Babylon and Persia.

ABOUT THE BOOK-

To start with, this book is not intended to give an account of the life of Daniel. Nor is it meant to give a record of the history of Israel neither during the exile, nor even of the captivity in Babylon. Really, its purpose is to show how by God's providential guidance, His miraculous interventions, His foreknowledge and almighty power, the God of heaven _____ the forces of nature and the history of nations, the lives of Hebrew captives and of the mightiest of the kings of the earth, for the accomplishment of His Divine and _____ for His servants and people.

The first chapter sets the stage for the rest of the book by _____ Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. In the second major section of the book (chaps. 2-7), Daniel and his friends met several additional _____ to prove that although a pagan people was holding them captive, the God whom they worshiped was _____.

Daniel's skill as an interpreter of dreams is also well established in the second section of his book. He interpreted several visions and dreams for King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and his successor Belshazzar. As he revealed the meaning of the mysterious "handwriting on the wall," he made it plain that the Medes and the Persians would defeat the Babylonian Empire. This happened _____ as Daniel predicted (5:13-31), and he continued as a servant in the court of the conquering Persian king.

The final section of Daniel's book (chaps. 8-12) consists of a series of visions about succeeding kingdoms and _____. These visions came to the prophet during his years in captivity. Standing by the Tigris River in one of these visions, he saw a goat attack a ram. The goat symbolized _____, who would defeat _____. This goat had several different horns, representing _____ that would rise after the decline of the Persians and the subsequent division of the Greek Empire among the _____.

Daniel had another unusual look into the future known as the _____. In this vision, the angel Gabriel revealed to Daniel that the nation of Israel

would be _____ after their period of _____. This would be followed many years later by the coming of the Messiah and then, finally, the _____ and _____.

Daniel's spectacular book closes with a _____, when the righteous will receive everlasting life and the wicked will receive God's condemnation. But not even Daniel was blessed with perfect understanding of this mystery of the ages. "My Lord, what shall be the end of these things?" (12:8), he asked. To this God replied, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end" (12:9).

Obviously, one of the major contributions of the Book of Daniel arises from its nature as _____. The vision of the _____ is considered a pivotal prophecy to most Bible interpreters. It is of such importance, that I feel we should deal with it here. However, there are various schools of interpretation on how to look at prophecy, and just let me note that prophetic Scripture interpretation is not a place for committed believers _____.

The view I am presenting is one of two that most today adhere to. As Daniel sought the Lord to find out how long the Babylonian captivity would last, God showed him that the original prophecy _____ regarding _____ of captivity would be extended to "_____", or 490 years. This revelation _____ of Jerusalem and the Jews from the time that Artaxerxes decreed they should rebuild the city of Jerusalem (Neh. 2:1-10) to the time of the _____ (Matt. 24:15-31).

This whole time period is called the "_____" because Gentile political authority will be _____ until the _____ of all Israel's enemies at the end of the Great Tribulation. This will culminate in the _____ and _____. He will at that time destroy all the armies that have come against Jerusalem.

The "seventy sevens" are divided into three sections: _____, _____, and _____. Each week represents _____. The decree of Artaxerxes was in 446-445 B.C. (Neh. 2:1). The first two sections of weeks total 69 weeks or 483 years. This period ended in A.D. 32 when the Messiah was "cut off", or when Jesus was crucified on Calvary. [In fact, 9:26 suggests that the Messiah would die violently, without any faithful followers and would die alone! This is one of the most remarkable, precise, predictive prophecies ever given!] The _____, which Daniel prophesied would be a part of the _____ week, was clearly dated by Jesus as being part of the _____ or end-time period (Matt 24:15).

Two thousand years have passed and the Seventieth Week has not yet happened. We are living in the Times of the Gentiles that precede that final prophetic "week". From this perspective of interpretation, the Book of Daniel unveils a march of events in God's relationship with His people and the world political system. Here are some basic facts distilled from the book presenting some upcoming events:

- 1) _____ (2:31-37, 44-45; 7:13-14).
- 2) _____ (2:44-45; 7:26-27).
- 3) The four metals of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image symbolize four empires: Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Macedonian-Greek, and Roman (2:37-40).
- 4) The fourth kingdom, _____ (7:8, 20-21; 8:23).

- 5) The False Prophet and the Antichrist are persons, not merely a system (7:7-8, 20-26; 9:27; 11:36-45).
- 6) God will continue to deal with the nation of Israel (9:20-27).
- 7) _____ (9:24).
- 8) The False Prophet and the Antichrist _____. At the end of the "week," after the Great Tribulation, _____, which will resolve all the prophecies of Daniel (9:24, 27).

BASIC THEMES OF DANIEL -

There are so many awesome themes in this book. One is the emphasis on _____, with Daniel as the ultimate example. From their decisions not to eat the king's food to not bowing to the idol, Daniel and his friends demonstrated that an _____ opens incredible doors for God's _____ to be manifested. This generation needs to consider their courageous commitment!

Daniel encourages us to _____ to God, God's law, and to the scriptural traditions of God's people. War, danger, threat, heathen kings, temptation, greedy desire for luxury, prosperity, and position lead away from God's way. Daniel encouraged the faithful to stand firm in faithfulness to the spiritual heritage of Israel.

In six different situations Daniel or his friends faced extreme pressure to forsake God and tradition for personal _____. In each case they _____ threats or danger of loss of life with no assurance of victory other than their faith. Daniel 7:1-12:13 bring these truths to bear upon an extremely tense situation. Throughout the book there is a focus upon the "fourth kingdom," that of a tyrannical despot. As the Daniel and his friends remained faithful, so people facing the despot could double their resolve and experience victorious faith. They faced the choice: believe a ruthless foreign conqueror, or _____ to the faith of the fathers and the God of their history. These choices now come down to us! Another theme in this book is the absolute superiority of God over the occult attempts _____. All the magicians, soothsayers, wise men and astrologers could not arrive at the truth- no matter how hard they tried (5:8). _____ cannot stand before the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)!

One of the greatest themes in Daniel relates to the _____ with God. True Holy Spirit-filled lives are marked by _____, not only by an obedient submission to them. Daniel and His friends demonstrate this:

- I. _____ (2). They were promised a privileged place if they conformed, but they refused- in spite of the fact they were, in effect, prisoners of war. They faced down the most powerful world ruler of their day and boldly offered to demonstrate the superiority of living by God's values. The end result was they retained their standards and gained a position to impact their culture.
- II. _____. The amazing call in chapter 2 to GIVE and interpret the dream confounded all worldly means and spiritual counterfeits, but Daniel and his friends sought into the realm of the supernatural. Spiritual gifts and revelations are sought for the _____ leading to the _____, not for the purpose of entertainment.
- III. _____ (3 & 6). Daniel and his three friends were tested by calculated efforts to discredit and destroy them- attempting to get them _____ in faith. But they remained steadfast

and zealous. Their pure passion for God was testified to by one great statement: Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God."

One last point to bring up involves Daniel's prayer life. His intercession was motivated by his heartfelt belief _____ (9:2). He also understood the importance of _____ in gaining _____ (10:1-3, 12-14).

A POSSIBLE KEY WORD-

My key word relates to a reason why Daniel was written. My key word is a phrase: _____. Daniel was ultimately written to encourage exiled Jews by revealing God's _____ for Israel during and after the period of Gentile domination. Though this "Time of the Gentiles" has gone on for many years, a time will come when God will establish the messianic kingdom that will last forever.

KEY VERSE(S) AND CHAPTER(S)-

In keeping with our discussion above, my key verse is: _____. It speaks to the key word and really God's ultimate purpose for Israel in the first place. As to key chapter, it should be no surprise: _____.

JESUS REVEALED IN THE BOOK-

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED IN THE BOOK-

This book is a wonderful example where the Spirit is at work everywhere but not directly mentioned: _____

SOME TRUTHS AND APPLICATIONS-

Daniel 1:8

The greatest resolution you will ever make is to follow God's Word and Jesus' commands no matter the personal consequences or violations of culturally accepted values.

Daniel 4

Daniel 12:3

A truly wise person wins souls! The cure to the ailments of all humanity is salvation, and we must bring it to others. Proverbs 10:5: “He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully.”