

# Overview of the Book of Daniel

## Sunday, October 21, 2018

- ❖ **INTRODUCTION:** The Hebrew Bible is divided...into **THREE** portions.
  - The **FIRST** division is the Law...containing the five Books of Moses.
  - The **SECOND** is the Prophets...which includes **Joshua...Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel (one book)...1 and 2 Kings (one book)...Isaiah...Jeremiah...Ezekiel...and the 12 Minor Prophets** (which are counted as one book).
  - The **THIRD** classification is called the Writings.
    - It contains 12 books: **Psalms...Proverbs...Job...Song of Solomon...Ruth...Lamentations...Ecclesiastes...Esther...Daniel...Ezra...Nehemiah...1 and 2 Chronicles** (the latter two counted as one book).
    - Thus...the **Book of Daniel** is not included among the Prophets...the second major division.
  - **SLIDE** - Yet Jesus called Daniel a prophet - **Matt. 24:15** - “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),”
    - Certainly...he was God’s messenger with God’s message...to reveal truths God had disclosed to him.
- ❖ **Why is the Book of Daniel Important?**
  - **SLIDE** – **Walvoord:** “Among the great prophetic books of Scripture, none provides a more comprehensive and chronological prophetic view of the broad movement of history than the book of Daniel. Of the three prophetic programs revealed in Scripture, outlining the course of the nations, Israel, and the church, Daniel alone reveals the details of God’s plan for both the nations and Israel. Although other prophets like Jeremiah had much to say to the nations and Israel, Daniel brings together and interrelates these great themes of prophecy as does no other portion of Scripture. For this reason, the book of Daniel is essential to the structure of prophecy and is the key to the entire Old Testament prophetic revelation. A study of this book is, therefore, not only important from the standpoint of determining the revelation of one of the great books of the Old Testament but is an indispensable preliminary investigation to any complete eschatological system.”
- ❖ **Author**
  - **SLIDE** - Little is known of Daniel’s family background.
    - From the testimony of his contemporaries...he was known for his righteousness - **Ezek. 14:14, 20**...and his wisdom - **Ezek. 28:3**.
    - He is mentioned in these passages with Noah and Job...who were historical people...so Daniel was also a historical person...not a fictional character.
  - Daniel was born into the royal family...and was of noble birth - **Dan. 1:3, 6**.
    - He was physically attractive and mentally sharp - **1:4**.
    - He lived at least until the third year of Cyrus...that is...till 536 B.C. – **Dan. 10:1**.
    - Therefore...he must have been a young man...when he was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B.C.
      - **Dan. 1:4** - Daniel was one of the “young” men of Israel.

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- ◆ It is believed that Daniel and his friends...were 15-16 years of age... when captured and taken to Babylon...if that were the case then...he was 85 in Cyrus' third year.

#### ❖ Background and Setting

- The book **BEGINS** in 605 B.C....when Babylon conquered Jerusalem...and exiled Daniel...his three friends...and many others.
- It continues to the eventual **DEMISE** of Babylonian supremacy in 539 B.C....when Medo-Persians conquered Babylon - **5:30-31**...and goes even beyond that to 536 B.C. - **10:1**.
- After Daniel was transported to Babylon...the Babylonian victors conquered Jerusalem...**TWO** further times (597 B.C. and 586 B.C.).
- Following both victories...they deported more Jewish captives.
- Daniel **PASSIONATELY** remembered his home...particularly the temple at Jerusalem ...almost seventy years after having been taken away from it - **6:10**.
- The long-continued sin of the Judeans...without national repentance...eventually led to God's judgment of which Jeremiah...Habakkuk ...and Zephaniah had given fair warning.
- **SLIDE** - Earlier...Isaiah and other faithful prophets of God...had also trumpeted the danger.
  - Daniel was in one of the first groups of deportees...Ezekiel followed in 597 B.C.
  - Israel, the northern kingdom, had earlier fallen to Assyria in 722 B.C.
    - With Judah's captivity, the judgment was complete.

#### ❖ Type of Literature

- The prophecy of Daniel is the first great book of...**APOCALYPTIC** literature in the Bible.
  - In addition to **Daniel** and **Revelation**...apocalyptic literature is found in **Ezekiel 37-48** and **Zechariah 1:7-7:8**.
- **SLIDE** - We are normally **NOT** left on our own...to interpret visions...symbols...and signs in apocalyptic literature.
  - In most instances an examination of the context...or a comparison with a parallel biblical passage...provides the Scriptures' own interpretation of the visions or the symbols employed.

#### ❖ What is the Book of Daniel About?

- **SLIDE** - the Bible Project Video on the **Book of Daniel**.

#### ❖ Next week Daniel Chapter One...