



## **An Exploration of Eschatology in Exile**

**WEEK 1: September 15, 2020, 10 am**

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12 Week Discipleship Course

## Famous Quotes About the Book of Daniel

“The subject (prophecy) cannot be adequately discussed without taking a survey of all the prophetic teachings of Scripture both of the Old Testament and the New. This task cannot be satisfactorily accomplished by anyone who has not made a study of the prophecies a specialty. The author, knowing that he has not such qualifications for the work, purposes to confine himself in a great measure to an historical survey of the different schemes of interpreting the Scriptures prophetically.”

—Dr. Charles Hodge

“To reject Daniel is to reject the Christian religion.”

—Sir Isaac Newton

“Here is all presented as set before the king according to his ability of apprehension—the external and visible things being shown as man might regard them.”

—Samuel P. Tregelles

“The captains and the kings depart, still stands Thine ancient sacrifice, an humble and a contrite heart.”

—Rudyard Kipling

“Another expression, ‘at the time of the end’ (11:40), seems to indicate eschatological times. I do not feel that this evidence, taken by itself, can be pressed too far, for obviously the end of whatever series of events is in the mind of the author is designated by the expression, ‘time of the end.’ This is not necessarily a series reaching on to the consummation of the ages. However, it is quite clear from 10:14, which fixes the scope of the prophecy to include ‘the latter days,’ that the ‘time of the end’ in this prophecy is with reference to the period consummated by the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom.”

—Dr. Robert Culver



## WHY STUDY DANIEL?

If you want a broad perspective of God's great game plan for the future of this little planet we live on, get ready for a glorious ride through the book of Daniel. God let Daniel see the vista of the future unfold before his eyes—four great world empires with splendor and a fanfare of trumpets.



## DANIEL ANSWERS THE QUESTION: WHO WILL RULE THE WORLD?

*“I do not believe that one can have a fully rounded student of the Bible without a knowledge of eschatology, or prophecy, like we find in the book of Daniel. Daniel gave us the skeleton of prophecy on which all prophecy is placed.”* —Dr. J. Vernon McGee

## THE BOOK OF DANIEL PROVIDES A KEY TO UNDERSTAND OTHER SCRIPTURES.

- In the Olivet Discourse, Jesus quotes only from the book of Daniel.
- The book of Revelation would be a mystery without Daniel.
- The “antichrist” described in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 needs Daniel's account to clarify and further explain.

*And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.* —Daniel 2:44

## We know more about Daniel the man than we do of any other prophet.

We first meet him when he was taken as a prisoner of war around 606 B.C.

His life and ministry bridge the entire 70 years of captivity.

At the beginning of the book he is a boy in his teens; at the end, he is an old man of 80+ years.



## DANIEL'S LIFE WAS CHARACTERIZED BY *Purpose, Prayer, and Prophecy*



## **Introduction to Daniel (Chapter 1, Lesson 1)**

### **Objectives**

- Understand the Historical Background of the book of Daniel
- Know the author's life, background, and motivation
- Acknowledge God's calling in the midst of trials

### **Outline**

- Babylon's Siege of Jerusalem (Chapter 1:1-2)
- Well-Favored Men are Chosen (Chapter 1:3-7)
- Daniel's Request (Chapter 1:8-10)
- Daniel's Proposal (Chapter 1:11-16)
- The Wisdom of Daniel and His Friends (Chapter 1:17-21)

### **Background Information**

- Babylon began the invasion of the country of Judah in 605 BC. The Israelite entered into a 70 year exile from their homeland.
- There was a total of three deportations of the people of Judah (605, 597, & 586 BC).
- The choicest of Judah was removed from their homeland and placed in Babylon. Daniel, a teenager at the time, would have been part of this invasion and deportation.
- Judah was mono-theistic. Babylon was poly-theistic.
- Many of the prophetic books of the Bible either look towards God's judgment or reflects on God's judgment. Daniel is unique. He writes from a "current" perspective on the judgment of God.
- The first half (chapters 1-6) focuses on history and the events happening in Babylon. However, chapter 7 takes a hard turn and Daniel begins to focus on future events (eschatology).

## Chapter 1: The Men of God Take a Stand

- The Siege of Jerusalem
  - During the reign of King Jehoiakim the siege began.
  - King Nebuchadnezzar sent the Chief Captain of his guard, Nebuzaradan and a host of soldiers in 599 BC. They surrounded the city of Jerusalem. No one could enter or exit. This led to extreme starvation and terrible measures were taken to survive.
  - Upon Jehoiakim's death, his son Jehoiachin became king. He only reigned for 3 months and 10 days. Nebuchadnezzar invaded and took over. Upon the invasion he placed Jehoiachin's uncle and Jehoiakim's brother on the throne, King Zedekiah.
  - During this time the prophet Jeremiah prophesied and counseled Zedekiah. However, no one listened to him.
  - King Zedekiah rebelled and in 597 BC Judah officially fell to the Babylonians.
  - More information found in 2 Kings 25.
- Well-Favored Men are Chosen
  - Ashpenaz, the master of the King's eunuchs was given the task to take care of and edify the young men from Judah.
  - He wanted them to eat a daily portion of meat and wine for at least three years.
  - Four young men stood up against this: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.
  - Ashpenaz renamed them after Babylonian gods and they became: Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
  - Nebuchadnezzar favored men of knowledge and health.
- Daniel's Request & Proposal
  - Daniel did not want to defile himself.
  - He saw the eating of the King's meat and wine as antithetical to his belief in Yahweh.
  - Daniel requested that a 10 day trial period take place. All he wanted was pulse to eat and water to drink.
  - What is pulse?
    - It is any number of leguminous crops and edible seed.
    - This includes: beans, lentils, peas, barley, oats, wheat, or millet.
  - After 10 days Melzar, the keeper observed the boys and found that they appeared fairer and fatter than all the young men that ate of the king's meat. Then Melzar took the king's meat and wine from those boys and gave them water and pulse.
- The Wisdom of Daniel & His Friends
  - God gave Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah wisdom, knowledge, and favor.
  - Daniel was specifically known for his visions and dreams.
  - After the three year period the king called for the young men to be brought to him. Of all the young men, no one was found to be like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.
  - These four young men were known as having more wisdom and understanding than all of King Nebuchadnezzar's astrologers or magicians.