

Book of Daniel

Class for Aug 27, 2023

Daniel – Introduction and Ch 1

Logos Class. Mod 5 Room 1

Class Schedule for the next few weeks

Aug 27, 2023 - Daniel Introduction and Ch 1

Sep 3, 2023 - Daniel Chapter 2

Sep 10, 2023 - Daniel Chapter 3

Sep 17, 2023 - Daniel Chapter 4

*Sep 24, 2023 – **Wade Williams** to teach*

*Oct 1, 2023. - **Wade Williams** to teach*

Oct 8, 2023. - Daniel Chapter 5

*We will be on vacation for the 2 Sundays Wade is teaching,
And we will be Zooming all of these lessons, God willing.*

The Book of Daniel – *An Introduction*

- The Nature of the Book
- The Author
- The Timeframe
- Context and Purpose
- Controversies
- Why it is important to us today

Daniel – Preface of book by John 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.

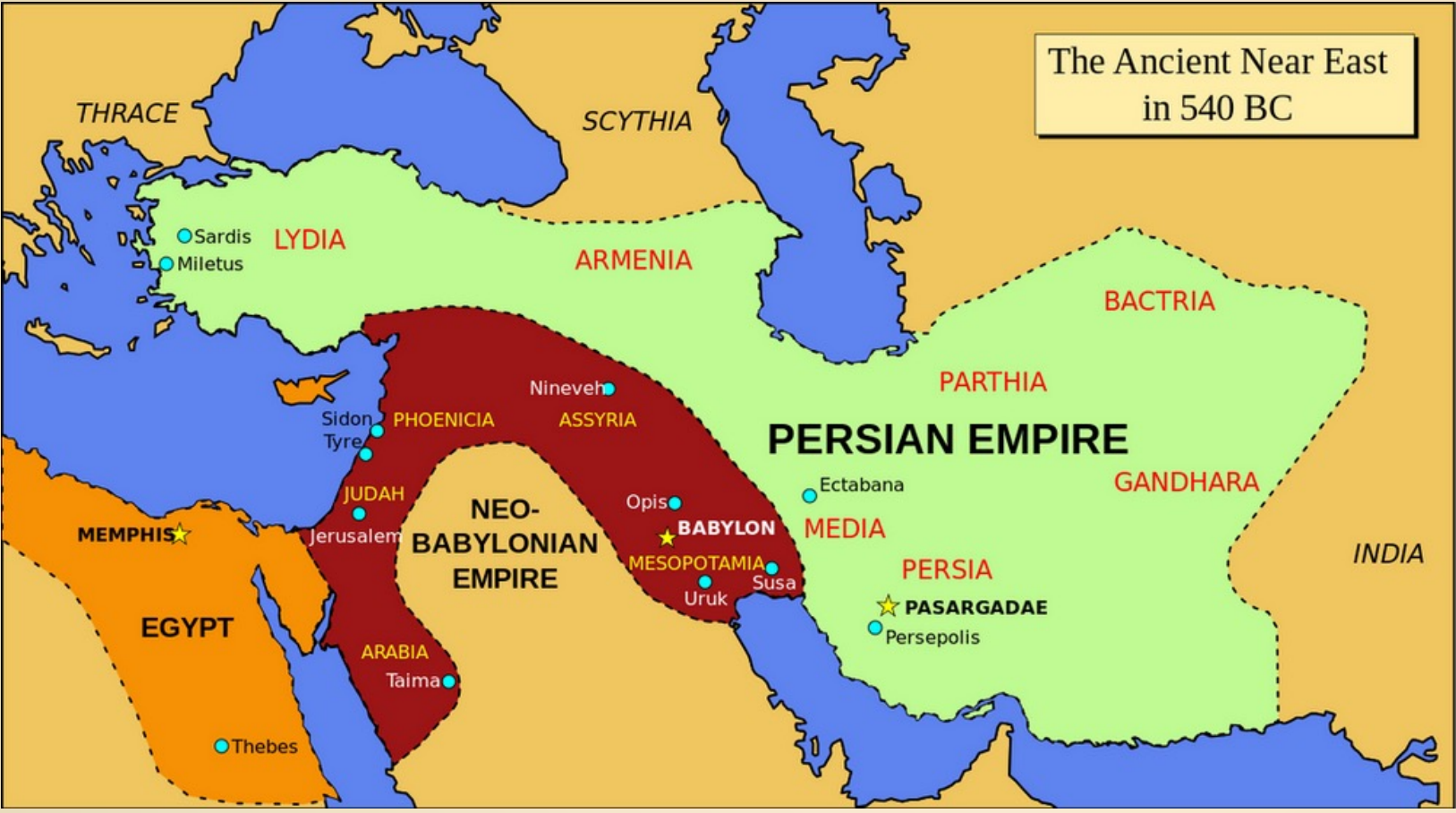
The Nature of our study of Daniel

The Book of Daniel

When was it written and who is the author?

- According to the testimony of the book itself, it is the account of the life, and prophetic revelation of Daniel, who was a Jew captured and taken captive to Babylon in the first invasion of Judah, by Nebuchadnezzar in **606 BC**.
- The record of events spans nearly **70 years** from his capture to the 3rd year of the reign of Cyrus in 536 BC. The book of Daniel was completed in the last 10 years of his captivity. Daniel lived on until about 530 BC but as far as we know, did not return to Israel. ***This same Daniel is the author of the Book***

The Book of Daniel – Maps and Nebuchadnezzar



Notice:
Judah/ Jerusalem
Babylon – Modern-day Iraq
Medes – Modern-day Kurds
Nebuchadnezzar – Powerful King of Babylon (Saddam Hussein)

The Book of Daniel



Languages

- The Book of Daniel is written in Hebrew, Persian, and Syriac
- Syriac is **Aramaic** and was the common Language in the area.
- Daniel spoke Hebrew but learned the others and wrote in all 3 in different periods

The Book of Daniel – Authorship and Context

One of the tactics of critics is to discount the existence of Daniel, and subscribe his book to a later compilation of authors

Three factors negate this idea:

- Records of Kings of Babylon and Persia substantiate the story of Daniel, and confirm his Babylonian name Belteshazzar
- Jesus confirms his name and status in Matt 24
- Other Biblical books call out Daniel and his work

The Book of Daniel – Other References

Ezekiel 14:12-14 (Context - Jerusalem's Judgment Inescapable)

¹² *The word of the Lord came to me:*

¹³ *“Son of man if a country sins against me by being unfaithful and I stretch out my hand against it to cut off its food supply and send famine upon it and kill its people and their animals,*

¹⁴ *even if these three men—Noah, **Daniel**, and Job—were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign Lord*

Eze 28:1-3 A Prophecy Against the King of Tyre

¹*The word of the Lord came to me:*

² *“Son of man, say to the ruler of Tyre, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says:*

“In the pride of your heart

you say, “I am a god;

I sit on the throne of a god

in the heart of the seas.”

But you are a mere mortal and not a god,

though you think you are as wise as a god.

³ *Are you wiser than **Daniel**?*

Is no secret hidden from you?

The Book of Daniel – Jesus' recognition

Matt 24:15

*15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the **prophet Daniel**—let the reader understand—*

16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

As we talked about when we studied the Gospel of Matthew.

The Olivet Discourse speaks of the time we call the Tribulation Period, and Jesus validates the existence of Daniel, his standing as a prophet of God, and the message he proclaimed.

Each of these is important in understanding and accepting the Book of Daniel and the prophecies contained within it.

The Book of Daniel - Controversies

- ✓ *The Existence of an actual person called Daniel – We've covered that*
- *Was Daniel a Historian or a Prophet?*
 - *Placement in the Jewish Bible(OT) and in our Bibles*
- *Was the book written within the timeframe of His Life or later by another?*
 - *Some claim his prophecies, if you take them literally, are too accurate and must have been written later, after they happened*
- *Are his prophecies allegorical or completed in the past?*
 - *Literal versus allegorical discussion*
 - *Last bastion of liberal theology that refuses to accept the Bible as a literal, historical, and grammatically true inspired work of God*
- *The definition of a prophet of God is that all his prophecies are true*
- *The discovery of a copy of Daniel in the Dead Sea scrolls confirms the early date of writing*

Book of Daniel – Final thoughts on Introduction

- *I have included in the notes online a PDF with a timeline of the history of the Jews during the Old Testament timeframe and shows where the Book of Daniel fits*
- *My personal theology is that Daniel is a real person who lived and wrote this book during his lifetime, probably in the last 10 years.*
- *He was a contemporary of Jeremiah and Ezekiel and they have intersection points in their books. **He and his message was confirmed by Jesus***
- *Daniel is divided into 2 main sections:*
 - Chapters 1-6 Historical Narrative*
 - Chapters 7-12 Predictive and Apocryphal (aka Prophecy)*

His Purpose was not History, but to confirm and declare the absolute Sovereignty of God, in the good times and the bad times. An encouragement then...and now in these crazy times.

Daniel 1:1-3 *The Story begins...*

***1** In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, **Nebuchadnezzar** king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.*

***2** And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, **along with some of the articles from the temple of God**. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.*

***3** Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his **court officials**, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility.*

Daniel 1:4-6 The people and the plan

*⁴ young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them **the language and literature** of the Babylonians.*

⁵ The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

*⁶ Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: **Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.***

Hebrew names are important

- *Daniel = **God is my judge***
- *Hananiah = **Yahweh is gracious***
- *Mishael = **Who is what God is, or Who is like God***
- *Azariah = **Yahweh has helped***

Daniel 1:7-10 First things first in the change

⁷ The chief official gave them new names: to **Daniel**, the name **Belteshazzar**; to **Hananiah**, **Shadrach**; to **Mishael**, **Meshach**; and to **Azariah**, **Abednego**.

⁸ But **Daniel** resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

⁹ Now **God** had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel,

¹⁰ but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.”

Daniel 1:11-14 Daniel works out a plan

11 Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

12 “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink.

13 Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.”

14 So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

- We understand several things. Daniel and his 3 companions are only 4 of many who have been put in the re-training program*
- Daniel is determined to be loyal to his God and not defile himself, so he makes a plan I’m sure after prayer and thought from the valley of decision*
- Daniel is the natural leader in this group of captives*

Daniel 1:15-17 God Prepares them

¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food.

*¹⁶ **So** the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.*

*¹⁷ To these four young men God gave **knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.***

God is in control and is sovereign

Daniel 1:18-21 The three years are up

¹⁸ At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar.

*¹⁹ The king talked with them, and he found **none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; so, they entered the king's service.***

²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom.

*²¹ And Daniel remained there until the first year of **King Cyrus**
(Persian King)*

Chapter 1 is an overview of the 70 years of service designed not to be a historical narrative, but to confirm that God is there, even in the valleys, and sovereign and in control

For Next Week...

Please come back so we can begin the extraordinary book of Daniel at a deeper level. Read Chapters 2 and 3

Pray for the wildfires that are worldwide to come under control and for the rescue of the people impacted

Pray for our country, its leaders, and our local leaders that God will direct their paths

Pray for our church as we impact this area for the Lord in powerful ways

Pray for yourselves...that you will be found faithful when the Master returns for us all