

The Holy Book of the Prophet Daniel



The Book for every believer

- The book of Daniel has a special significance in the life of believers, for it is not a record of Daniel's life nor to an era of the history of the Israelites during the Babylon captivity, but rather it is a divine book, which the Holy Spirit offers us to instill hope in the hurt souls. Sometimes, God allows throwing us in the fiery furnace of trials, yet He changes the nature of fire for our comfort and peace.
- From one aspect, this book reveals to us that God is the Controller of all history, who does for the edification of his faithful believers in any place. From another aspect, this book reveals to us that God is glorified in the very few who are sincere to Him.
- Since God allows his believers to go through tribulations, as He allowed Daniel while still a youth, yet He elevated him to the highest level so that the greatest king at that time came and worshipped him, realizing that the Spirit of the Holy One is inside him.
- God enlightened his vision to grant him not only wisdom so he may know the king's dreams and explain it to him, and not only to conduct all the matters of the kingdom wisely, but rather to enjoy the surpassing mysteries of God, so the Spirit may reveal to him the future and eternal work of God with humanity.
- Lastly, this book is directed to every believer to realize his living role in the church life as well as the life of all the human race, for Daniel was not devoted for the ministry and prophecy, but rather he was like the prime minister in a country which dominated the whole world. He knew how to give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.
- Daniel did not go back to Jerusalem like those who came back from the captivity, and did not restore building the temple with Zerubbabel, but he was the first man who worked in secret in these matters. He influenced the kings of Babel and Persia; he offered a great service through his holy life and his faithfulness in his work.

Introduction to the book of Daniel

Daniel was contemporary to Ezekiel the prophet, and younger in age. Ezekiel offered us Jerusalem with its temple, which became desolate due to corruption. At the same time, he saw with the spirit of prophecy, not only the return from the captivity but the erection of a new temple, the temple of the New Testament where the divine grace overflows.

However, Daniel offered us not only the return from the captivity, but also the encounter with the true Liberator the Lord Jesus Christ, who can liberate us from the bondage of sin and makes us enter into His glories. Moreover, He opens the eyes of our hearts to see Him coming at the end of ages to form, from his believers, shining stars on His image. The two captive prophets agreed to reveal God's care for His believers, assuring them that He will never forget them, no matter how long the period is.

Who is Daniel?

- Daniel was born in Jerusalem.
- While still a young man, Daniel travelled to Babylon with a group of young Israelite nobles.

- Once Daniel arrived, the leadership in Babylon renamed him Belteshazzar in an effort to more closely identify him with his new home (1:7). They wanted to brain wash him and the other Jews to forget their origin.
- Daniel lived there throughout the Jews' seventy-year captivity (1:21; 9:2), eventually rising to become one of only three administrators over the provincial governors throughout the kingdom (6:1).
- Daniel recorded his experiences and prophecies for the Jewish exiles during his time in the Babylonian capital, where his service to the king gave him privileged access to the highest levels of society.
- His faithful service to the Lord in a land and culture not his own makes him unique among almost all the people of Scripture.
- Daniel stands as one of the only major figures in the Bible to produce a completely positive record of his actions.

This book offers us Daniel's unique character:

1. He was a prophet occupied with administration. However, he knew how not to mix between the administration and his prophetic spiritual work, for his position in administration did not make him lose his heavenly vision and his concern for the salvation of his soul and the salvation of his people, and even the salvation of the kings who dealt with him.
2. His high position in the largest pagan empire did not prevent him from witnessing to the true God and from keeping His commandments, not violently but with the spirit of wisdom, love and courage.
3. He served his people, not with the spirit of fanaticism, but with the spirit of holiness and humility, with love to all people. He supported them in the land of captivity where he found grace in the eyes of the kings. He also opened the doors of hope before the captive people, and before all the Gentiles.
4. He is the father of the history of the Gentiles. He recorded many precise prophecies about the kingdoms which follow one another, through God's plan. The book of Daniel is the only book in the Old Testament which prophesied in detail about kings and kingdoms, which he had declared by name like Persia and Greece.
5. He is the prophet who determined the times for the events of salvation, the end of the world, and was occupied with the times of the Gentiles.
6. Josephus, the Jewish historian, mentioned that Daniel was very skillful in architecture, for he is the one who designed the building of the famous tower of Shushan in Persia, where the kings of Persia lived.
7. Probably, he was born in Jerusalem, and was captive in Babylon like Ezekiel (Dan. 1:1-2).
8. However, Daniel was captive in the first captivity, during the days of Jehoakim, the year 606 B.C., while Ezekiel was captive in the second captivity.
9. He was captive to Babylon, while he was a youth, and he was from the tribe of Judah. (Dan.1:7) Although he was not from the royal house from the descendants of David (Dan. 1:3), he learned the Chaldean language with the three youths. Some say that he lived about 84 years from 618 to 534 B.C.
10. God granted him wisdom and grace, thus he served during the times of the kingdoms of Babylon, Medes, and Persia.

Where are we in history?

The Babylonians exiled the group containing Daniel and his three friends to Babylon, in 605 BC.

This move was part of the first of three deportations (605, 597, and 586 BC) carried out by the Babylonians in Israel after they subdued Jerusalem and the unfaithful King Jehoiakim (2 Kings 23:36–24:2). Daniel was taken in the 1st deportation, but the destruction of the temple was done on the 3rd deportation, that is why 586 BC is marked as the official date of the exile.

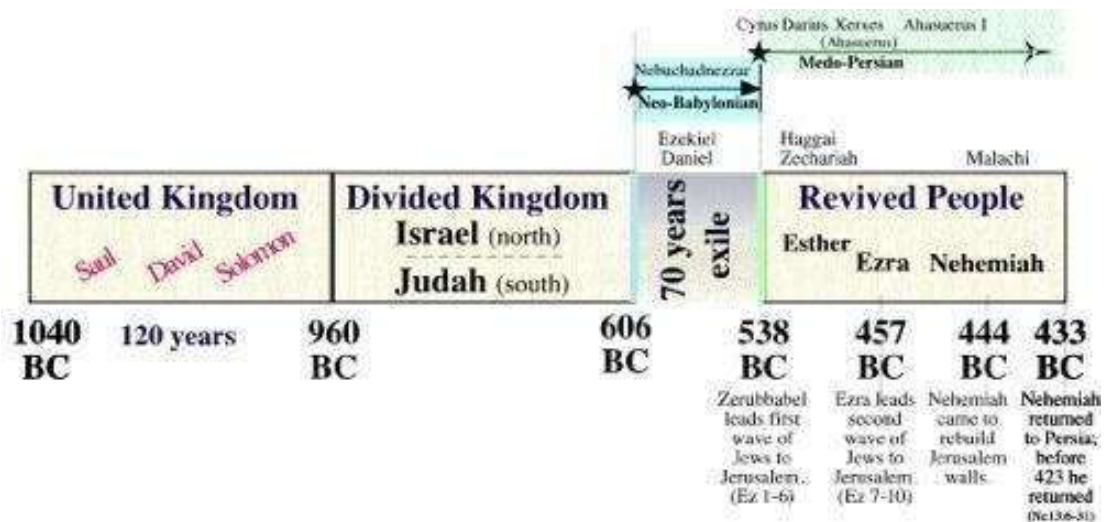
The teenaged Daniel [taken when he was 15 years old to Babylon] found himself in the midst of a strongly polytheistic religious culture, meaning he had ample opportunities to fall into error. However, he stood firm in his faith among the Babylonian people on several significant matters—including dietary regulations and worship practices (Daniel 1:8–16; 6:6–12).

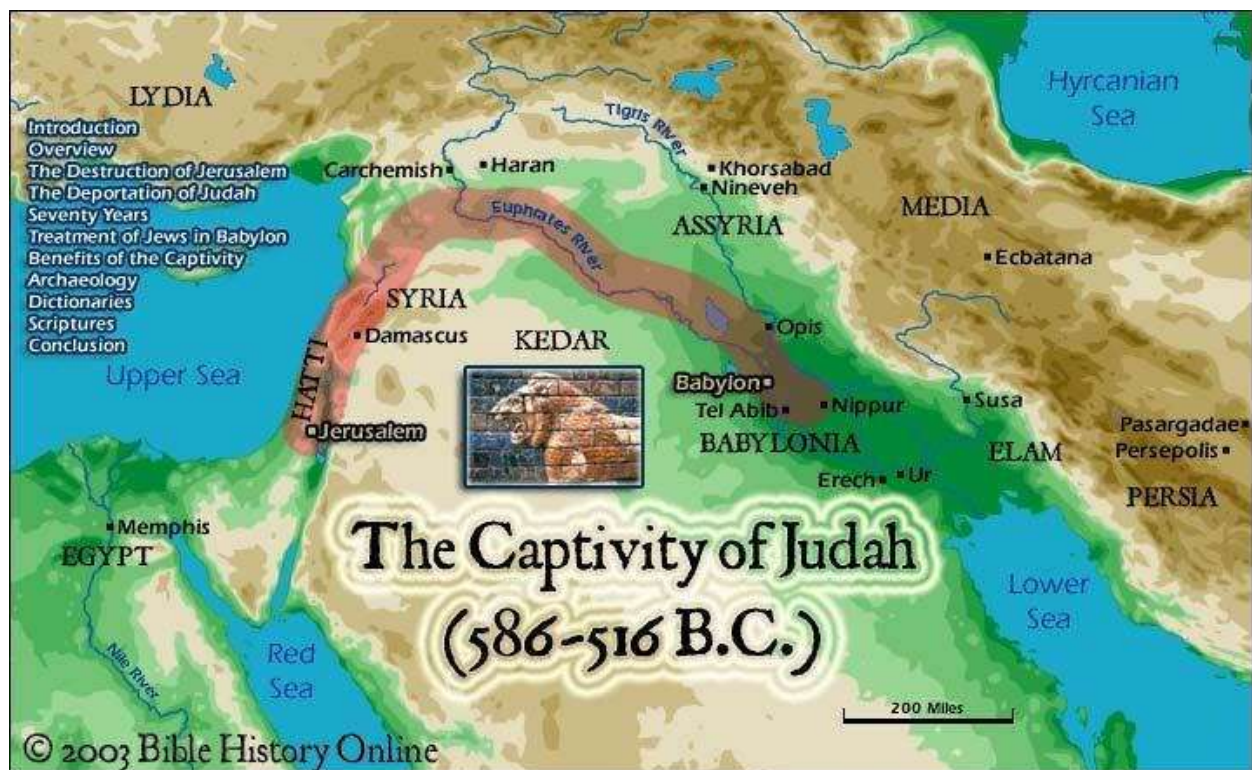
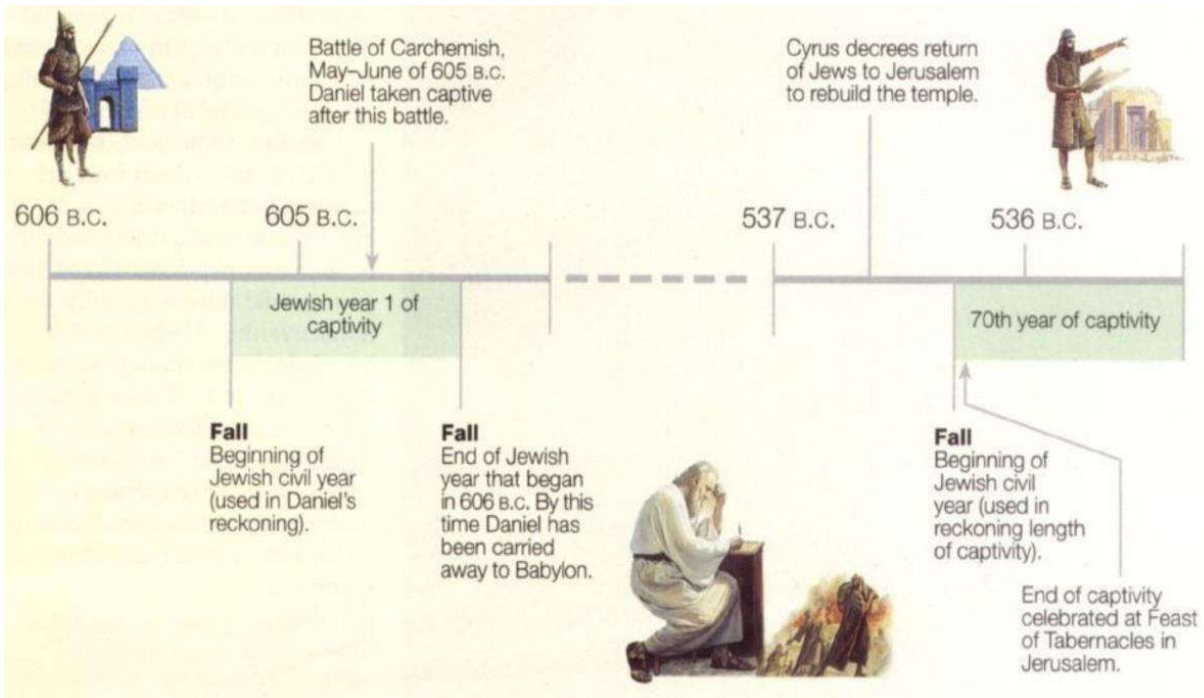
Timeline of the book of Daniel:

- ❖ 620 - Birth of Daniel.
- ❖ 609 – King Josiah killed by the Egyptians at Megiddo.
- ❖ 605 - Babylonians defeat Pharaoh Neco of Egypt. The Babylonians hold the balance of power in the region.
- ❖ 605 - The Babylonians besiege Jerusalem; some of the royal family and nobles, including Daniel, are taken to Babylon. [Daniel 15 years old 620-605 BC]
- ❖ 604 - 603 - Daniel and his Hebrew companions are trained to serve Nebuchadnezzar.
- ❖ 602 - Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the colossal statue and Daniel's interpretation.
- ❖ 586 - Jerusalem falls to the third Babylonian siege and the temple is destroyed.
- ❖ 573 - 566 - Nebuchadnezzar's seven years of insanity.
- ❖ 539 - Daniel interprets the handwriting on the wall for Belshazzar. Cyrus captures Babylon without resistance. Gabriel visits Daniel with the message of 70 weeks.
- ❖ 538 - Cyrus issues a decree allowing the Jews to return to Judah.
- ❖ 536 - Daniel is thrown into the lions' den.
- ❖ 535 - Daniel receives vision of future events.
- ❖ 530 – Daniel completes his book

The Book of Daniel

Focus	Judgment upon the Gentiles				Hope for the Jews			
Divisions	Daniel's Friends in the Furnace		Daniel's Faith in the Lion's Den		Beasts, Kings & Seventy Weeks		Previews of Israel's Future	
	1	3	4	6	7	9	10	12
Topics	Convincing Gentiles of God's Power				Convincing Jews of god's Purpose			
	Daniel Interprets Other's Dreams				Angels Interpret Daniel's Dreams			
Place	Babylon & Persia							
Time	At Least 70 Years							
Author	The Prophet Daniel							





Daniel in Context



Book outlines:

- I. The Godly Remnant in the Times of the Gentiles (1:1–21)
 - A. Daniel and his friends in the Babylonian captivity (1:1–7)
 - B. Daniel and the king's food (1:8–16)
 - C. Daniel and the Lord's reward (1:17–21)
- II. God's Sovereignty over the Times of the Gentiles (2:1–7:28)
 - A. Daniel and the king's dream (2:1–49)
 - B. Daniel's friends and the fiery furnace (3:1–30)
 - C. Nebuchadnezzar's pride, madness, and repentance (4:1–37)
 - D. Belshazzar's feast and the writing on the wall (5:1–30)
 - E. Daniel in the lions' den (6:1–28)
 - F. Daniel's vision of the four beasts, the Ancient of Days, and the Son of Man (7:1–28)
- III. God's People in the Times of the Gentiles (8:1–12:13)
 - A. Daniel's vision of the ram and the male goat (8:1–27)
 - B. Daniel's prayer and vision of the seventy weeks (9:1–27)
 - C. Daniel and his final visions (10:1–12:13)