

SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, PART 26
June 20, 2018
Daniel: “God’s Sovereign Plan for Israel and the Nations”

Introduction

• **Title**

- The book is named after its author, Daniel (“God is My _____.”)
- Daniel is included in the third section of the Hebrew Bible, called “the Writings.”
 - Although Daniel was a prophet, he did not preach _____ to Israel.
 - He was known for his great _____:
 - Dan. 2:48: _____
 - Ezek. 28:3: _____
- Daniel is the Old Testament equivalent of, and complement to, Revelation.

• **Author: _____**

- He was a contemporary of Jeremiah and Ezekiel.
- He was taken into captivity in the _____ deportation to Babylon in 605 B.C. (1:1).
- He was a talented, tactful, and good-looking young man of _____ descent (1:4).
 - Probably around 10-_____ years old when he was taken captive.
- He was a man of outstanding _____ (1:8, Ezek. 14:14, 20).
- His captivity and service to the king of Babylon fulfilled a specific prophecy of _____ to King Hezekiah of Judah:
 - Isa. 39:7: _____
- His Babylonian name was Belteshazzar (1:7).
- He _____ the Babylonian empire (1:21).

• **Other Key People:**

- Nebuchadnezzar
- _____ (Hananiah)
- Meshach (Mishael)
- Abed-Nego (Azariah)
- _____
- Cyrus
- _____

• **Date: Between 605 and 536 B.C.**

- Although we don’t know exactly when Daniel began writing, the events recorded in the

- book began with his _____ in 605 B.C.
- The last dated prophecy in the book was received by Daniel in the _____ year of Cyrus of Persia (536 B.C.)
- Since Daniel was quite _____ in 536, we conclude the book must have been completed not long after that date.

Background and Setting

- The Book of Daniel is set against the same historical backdrop as the Books of _____ and Ezekiel.
 - God allowed the Babylonians to dominate, deport, and eventually destroy Judah because of their idolatry.
 - God indicated that this captivity would last for _____ years.
- The purpose of the Book of Daniel is to assure the Israelites that even though Judah and Jerusalem had been destroyed, God was still in control and would send the _____ and restore the nation of Israel in His time.

Structure and Style

- Structure:
 - Chap. 1-6: narratives with some _____
 - Chap. 7-12: prophecy with some _____
- Literary Form = _____ literature:
 - Apocalypse = “unveiling, disclosing, revealing”
 - Truth received in _____ from God
 - Extensive use of _____ and symbols
 - Information about God’s plans for Israel.
 - Written in _____ rather than poetry.
 - Other examples = Ezek. 37-48, Zech. 1-7, _____.
- Languages:
 - The parts of the book pertaining mainly to the Jews were written in _____.
 - The parts of the book pertaining mainly to the Gentiles were written in _____ (the trade language of the day).
 - From 2:4b-7:28.

Overview (from Daniel Explained)

- I. Daniel’s personal _____ (1)
- II. God’s sovereignty over Gentile nations (2-7)
 - A. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of a great _____ (2)
 - B. Three Hebrews in the fiery _____ (3)

- C. Nebuchadnezzar's madness (4)
- C'. Belshazzar's _____ (5)
- B'. Daniel in the _____ den (6)
- A'. Daniel's vision of the four beasts (7).
- II'. God's loving purpose for Israel (8-12)
 - A. Daniel's vision of the _____ and the goat (8)
 - B. The prophecy of the _____ weeks (9)
 - A'. The prophecy of the two kings (10:1-12:12)
- I'. Daniel's personal future (12:13)

Challenges to the Book

- **Q: Was the Book of Daniel really written by Daniel in the sixth century B.C. or at some _____ time?**

- A: Yes, it was really written by the historical Daniel described in the book. The only reason why critics reject the early and correct date for Daniel is because they don't want to believe in _____ prophecy.
- Reasons we can be confident the book was written by Daniel and is not a fiction or forgery from the 2nd century B.C.:
 - The _____ states that Daniel was the author.
 - Dan. 8:15: _____
 - See also Dan. 8:27; 9:2; 10:2, 7; 12:4,5
 - The Lord Jesus _____ his authorship.
 - Matt. 24:15: _____
 - _____ supports his authorship.
 - Ezek. 14:14: _____
 - See also Ezek. 14:20, 28:3.
 - The Book of Ezekiel is generally considered to be genuine and/or older than the 2nd century.
 - Daniel was probably around _____-30 years old when chapter 14 was written. He had already been elevated to a high position in Babylon and was obviously well-known to and highly regarded by the Jewish exiles.
 - The Dead Sea _____ substantiate an earlier date of writing.
 - Fragments of Daniel were discovered dating to as early as the 2nd century B.C.
 - A fictional, forged book would not have had time to gain wide _____ as authoritative.

- _____ studies confirm an earlier date of writing.
 - It has been shown that Daniel's _____ is much older than the 2nd century B.C.
 - Daniel's Persian _____ would have been unknown to a later forger.

Christ in the Book

- **He is _____ that will smite all the kingdoms of the world and establish an eternal kingdom.**

- Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45: _____

- Luke 20:17-18: _____

- **He is the Son of _____.**

- Dan. 7:13-14: _____

- Matt. 24:30: _____

- Matt. 26:64: _____

- **He is the coming Messiah _____.**

- Dan. 9:25-26: _____

- Matt. 16:28: _____

- 2 Pet. 1:16: _____

Key Words and Phrases

- Dream (27x)
- _____ (32x)
- Interpretation (30x)
- _____ (56x)
 - Everlasting kingdom (2x)
- Dominion (18x)
 - Everlasting dominion (2x)
- The Most High (10x)
- The Most High God (3x)

Key Themes and Doctrines

- **God's sovereign _____ over the affairs of nations and the flow of human history.**
 - Dan. 2:20-22: _____

 - Dan. 4:17, 34-37: _____

- **God's sovereign and loving plan to send the Messiah and _____ the nation of Israel.**
 - Dan. 2:44-45: _____

 - Dan. 9:24-26: _____

- **The right way for God's people to _____ in the midst of an ungodly society.**
 - Illustrated by the personal _____ of Daniel and his three friends.

Application

- **Are you _____ the right way in response to the ungodliness of the world around you?**
 - By not _____ yourself with sin?
 - Dan. 1:8: _____
 - By taking a _____ for righteousness?
 - Dan. 3:16-18: _____
 - By honoring God _____ at all times?
 - Dan. 6:10: _____
 - By winning _____?
 - Dan. 4, 12:3: _____