

**THE
LIFE
AND
PROPHECIES
OF
DANIEL**

**Roger L. Peterson
The Bible Light Study Notes**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The BIBLE LIGHT STUDY NOTES in Daniel were originally written by Roy Beacham, Th.D. Dr. Beacham and I studied the book of Daniel under the instruction of Dr. Roland McCune, Th.D. at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I thank these two men for the help that they gave to me in making these lessons possible. The Study Notes for Daniel and the entire Bible were used as a concise commentary for the adult teachers at Fourth Baptist Church.

The Study Notes spread beyond Fourth Baptist Church by the students at Central Seminary when they graduated and went to other places to serve the Lord. Since Central Seminary was housed in the facilities of the Fourth Baptist Church, the Bible Light Lessons for adults and children became well known to most of the seminary students. When they graduated from Central Seminary they asked for permission to use the lessons in their churches. It was granted. Central Seminary had a printing facility that produced these lessons and they provided these lessons to these graduates for a small charge for printing them.

These lessons were produced on electronic typewriters before the days when churches had the use of computers. So when Central Seminary shut down their printing operations, the lessons were no longer made available to the students or to the public. But requests for these lessons kept coming, so after many, many years it was decided that these lessons needed to be made available on our web site. Many volunteers have worked without reimbursement to make this possible. May God reward them for their dedicated service to help spread the teaching of His Word, not only in the USA, but also in foreign countries.

Over these many years since the Study Notes were first printed, I have made some additions and minor changes to them, but the bulk of the work remains the same. I wrote the original lesson plans for the teachers and the lessons for the students, and I have extensively revised the lessons for the students and made some changes in the lesson plans.

This material shares LIGHT that the Spirit has revealed to His servants, but the divine Author wants to give you His purest LIGHT directly from His Word. He inspired holy men of old to record the Holy Scriptures. So it is important to study and meditate on God's Word first and to pray that the Holy Spirit will open the windows of heaven and give LIGHT from His Word. When that is done first, the Spirit may also use these lessons to give further LIGHT to the mind of a seeking servant that teaches His Word.

These lessons will explain the Bible from a literal, grammatical and historical perspective. They will attempt to be concise, accurate and useful. They will provide the student with a good grasp of the book under consideration, but they do not claim to be a thorough commentary on the subject. They are like the LIGHT from a flashlight that throws a little light on the path in the darkest of nights so one does not stumble.

Roger L. Peterson, Th.D.

INTRODUCTION

LIFE and PROPHECIES of DANIEL

The Place of Daniel in History

Daniel lived during the time when **God judged Judah** for unfaithfulness to Him. God had already judged the ten northern tribes (Israel) when He allowed Assyria to conquer and take them into captivity in 722 B.C. Now God used Babylon to conquer the two southern tribes (Judah) and take them into captivity in three steps. The first was in 605 B.C. when **Daniel** and many other intelligent young men were deported to Babylon. The second was in 597 B.C. when some 10,000 leaders including **Ezekiel** were carried off to Babylon. The third and final step came in 586 B.C. when Jerusalem was destroyed. Most of the people were either killed or marched off to Babylon. Only a small group of poor people was allowed to remain in Jerusalem. **Jeremiah** lived through all three of these deportations, but he prophesied that Judah would return after 70 years of captivity (Jer. 25:11-12). Daniel 1, 2, and most likely 3, all take place before Jerusalem fell, while Daniel 4-12 occur after the fall. For over 70 years Daniel served in Babylon and Persia in a variety of official capacities. Daniel was still alive when Cyrus decreed that Judah return to its land (538 B.C.) and he saw it come to pass in 536 B.C., which completed the seventy years of captivity.

The Authorship of Daniel

Liberal critics deny that Daniel wrote the book that bears his name. They say someone in 165 B.C., or later, wrote the book to comfort and encourage the Jews who were suffering persecution from Antiochus Epiphanes. However, the real reason for this late date is their unwillingness to accept the predictions made in the book as genuine prophecies. Daniel's prophecies are so explicit and accurate that they believe the author had the advantage of history to write them. They say the author took events that had already occurred and couched them in the language of a prophecy. This is refuted by the statement of **Christ**, who spoke of Daniel as the prophet who foretold the "abomination of desolation" (Mt. 24:15; cf. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11). Furthermore, **Daniel claims he is the author** (8:1ff, 9:2; 10:2). The book shows the author had an excellent knowledge of Babylonian and early Persian history, which agrees perfectly with Daniel's claim (4:1ff; 5:16; 5:31; 6:1; 6:8, 9, 12, 15).

Daniel was **a special person** from his birth in Judah [c. 620 B.C.] until his death [c. 530 B.C.]. He probably belonged to the royal family (1:3, 6), and was favored with a handsome body and an intelligent mind (1:4). When he was about 15 years old in 605 B.C., he was taken captive and brought to Babylon to be trained for special service in Nebuchadnezzar's court. He served Nebuchadnezzar until he died in 562 B.C. He did not hold a prominent position in Babylon during the rule of Nabonidus and Belshazzar, but when they were conquered by the Persians in 539 B.C., Daniel was promptly made one of three presidents over Babylon during the Persian rule. By this time he was over eighty years old, but he served King Darius very effectively. He may have lived until he was ninety.

While being trained as a young man, he proved he was **a man of God**. [1] He separated himself from sin, refusing to eat the pagan food of the king. [2] He desired God's mercy when he prayed

for His help to show him what the king dreamed and how to interpret it. [3] He witnessed to the king, telling him that his dream was from God to show him what was coming in the future. He led a devout life and was greatly loved by God (9:23; 10:11, 19). His sincere godliness helped him survive the idolatrous Babylonian society. The Babylonians had no respect for God, because they believed their gods had enabled Nebuchadnezzar to conquer His people. In fact, God's holy vessels were taken from His house and carried to Babylon where they were put in the treasure house of Nebuchadnezzar's god as proof that his god was more powerful than Judah's God. However, Daniel remained true to God and proved to everyone in the Babylonian court that his God was all-powerful, all-knowing, all-wise, was present in Babylon as well as in Judah and he was active in the affairs of all nations and individuals.

Daniel was **an outstanding witness for God** in Babylon. He witnessed directly to kings and officials of the greatness of his God by his words and by his life. He respected the authority of God, and was not afraid to lay down his life to obey Him. He prayed to God regularly and effectively throughout his whole life, and even the unbelievers knew about his walk with God (Dan 6:4-9). He was known among his own people as a man of righteousness and wisdom (Ezk 14:14, 20; 28:3). In summary, Daniel's witness included love for his God, holiness in his life, humility in his character, wisdom in his counsel, and power in his prayers. His witness for God was a fresh breath of air for those who had been dazed by the poisonous fumes of idolatry.

The Date of Daniel

The narrative of Daniel begins in 605 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar took Daniel and his friends to Babylon to train them as wise men in his court and covers a period of seventy years. He received his last revelation (10:1) in the third year of Cyrus (536 B.C.). Daniel must have put the book in its final form sometime after he received his final vision (535-530 B.C.).

Daniel received five revelations about future events, the last four when he was an older man. The first is found in chapter two when God revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel in a night vision [2:19]. This happened in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign (603 B.C.), when Daniel was about 17 years old. The second is recorded in chapter seven and it came in the first year of Belshazzar's reign (553 B.C.), when Daniel was about 67 years old. The third is recorded in chapter eight and it came in the third year of Belshazzar (551 B.C.), when Daniel was about 69 years old. The fourth is found in chapter nine, which Daniel received, in the first year of Darius (538 B.C.), when Daniel was about 82 years old. The final revelation includes chapters 10-12, which was given to Daniel in the third year of Cyrus (536 B.C.), when he was about 84 years old.

The Purpose of Daniel

An important purpose for this book to be written is the **encouragement** it provided to the Jewish people who were under the judgment of God for their sin. Even though many Jews may have felt that God had forsaken them, the stories and prophecies in Daniel proved otherwise. God still blessed those who were faithful to Him and He had a great plan for the future of Israel in which Jesus Christ, the Jewish Messiah, would be the ruler of all nations.

Another purpose is the **faith** it inspired in God's sovereignty and greatness (4:17b, 34-37). The heathen gods of the pagan Gentile nations had not conquered God. He was still alive and

powerful. Even though His people were defeated, first by Assyria and then by Babylon, and even though His temple was burned to the ground by the Babylonians and the sacred vessels of His house were taken and put in the temples of the gods of Babylon, God was not defeated. Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar and Darius were taught by personal experience and in some cases by prophecy that God was still alive and was all-powerful. No heathen god was the master and ruler of the God of the Jews. He was still God and there was no other god who could challenge Him. He was the Creator, Sustainer and Lord of all.

A third purpose is the **example of godly living** set forth by Daniel and his three friends. The devotion and holiness of the heroes of this book are an inspiration to young people and to mature believers alike.

The fourth purpose is the support that Daniel gives to the **interpretation of all prophecy**. One, it supports a literal interpretation of prophecy. Many of Daniel's prophecies were fulfilled literally by the time of Jesus, so it can safely be assumed that the rest of his prophecies also will be literally fulfilled. Jesus confirmed this when He referred to Daniel's prophecy about the literal arrival of "the abomination of desolation" in the end times (Mt 24:15; cf Dan 9:27; 11:31; 12:11). Since there are many parallel passages between Daniel and Revelation, a literal interpretation of Revelation also is warranted. Second, Daniel sheds light on some of the puzzling eschatological problems presented in the book of Revelation. Without the book of Daniel, Bible students would be like a carpenter with nails and no hammer.

Two, it gives **relevance of prophecy** in knowing that God's plan to restore the earth to its original glory is still valid. Satan believes he will continue to rule the earth forever. He has planned his work and worked his plan; now most of the world is under his control. However, Daniel prophesied that he will be defeated and will not succeed in his plan. Others believe this world is so contaminated that it has no future use for God, but Daniel' prophesied that God's Son will crush the nations and establish His own Kingdom on the earth so it will bring great glory to God in the future. Then His desires will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Three, it gives credibility to the **accuracy of prophecy**. Some people have the notion that prophecy can be interpreted to mean whatever comes to their minds. Daniel's prophecies prove that cannot be done. Many of Daniel's prophecies have already been fulfilled so accurately that the critics do not believe Daniel wrote them, but rather someone else. wrote them around 165 B.C in Daniel's name after the events had happened and expressed in prophetic language. However, one of Daniel's prophecies concerned Jesus' death and another foretold Jerusalem's destruction (Dan 9:26), Jesus affirmed that Daniel wrote a prophecy about the Antichrist and his abominable idol in the holy place and warned the people in Israel to flee to the mountains when they see that happen (Mt 24:15; Dan 9:27). That will happen during the coming Tribulation.

Brief Outline of Daniel

A.	God Sends Daniel to Babylon	1
B.	God Ministers to Gentiles	2-7
C.	God Ministers to Israel	8-12

Basic Outline of Daniel

A.	The King's Food Tests Daniel's Faith	1
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B.	The Dream of a Great Image	2
C.	The Fury of a Fiery Furnace	3
D.	The Disturbing Dream of a Great Tree	4
E.	A Hand Writing on the Wall	5
F.	Daniel in the Lion's Den	6
G.	Daniel's Vision of Four Beasts	7
H.	Vision of the Ram and Goat	8
I.	Daniel's Penitent Prayer to God	9:1-23
J.	God's Prophecy for Israel	9:24-27
K.	The Warfare Between Angels	10
L.	Israel's Past and Future	11-12

Detailed Outline of Daniel

I.	DANIEL'S STAND FOR GOD IN BABYLON	1:1-21
A.	Defeat of Jerusalem	1:1-2
B.	Deportation of the Elite	1:3-7
C.	Determination of Daniel	1:8-16
D.	Distinction of the Godly Men	1:17-21
II.	NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM: THE GREAT IMAGE	2:1-49
A.	Perplexity of Nebuchadnezzar	2:1-13
1.	His Dream of the Great Image	2:1
2.	His Search for an Interpretation	2:2-13
B.	Perception of Daniel	2:14-28
1.	His Poise	2:14-16
2.	His Petition	2:17-18
3.	His Praise	2:19-23
4.	His Presentation	2:24-28
C.	Prophecy of Four Kingdoms	2:29-45
1.	The Dream	2:29-35
2.	The Interpretation	2:36-45
D.	Promotion of Daniel	2:46-49
1.	His Testimony Acknowledged	2:46-47
2.	His Position Advanced	2:48
3.	His Friends Awarded	2:49
III.	GOD'S MIRACLE AT THE FIERY FURNACE	3:1-30
A.	Dedication of the Golden Image	3:1-7
B.	Determination of the Hebrew Youths	3:8-18
1.	Accusation of the Chaldeans	3:8-12
2.	Anger of Nebuchadnezzar	3:13-15
3.	Answer of the Jewish Men	3:16-18
C.	Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace	3:19-27
D.	Decree of the Great Nebuchadnezzar	3:28-30
IV.	NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM: THE GREAT TREE	4:1-37
A.	Declaration of Nebuchadnezzar	4:1-3
B.	Dream of a Great Tree	4:4-18
C.	Disclosure to Nebuchadnezzar	4:19-27
D.	Debasement of Nebuchadnezzar	4:28-37
1.	His Pride Expressed	4:28-30
2.	His Pride Judged	4:31-33
3.	His Pride Abandoned	4:34-37

V. GOD'S MESSAGE WRITTEN ON THE WALL	5:1-31
A. Revelry of Belshazzar	5:1-4
B. Revelation of God	5:5-9
C. Recommendation of the Queen	5:10-12
D. Reception of Daniel	5:13-16
E. Rebuke of Belshazzar	5:17-24
F. Rendering of the Writing	5:25-29
G. Realization of the Prophecy	5:30-31
VI. GOD'S DELIVERANCE OF DANIEL FROM THE LION'S DEN	6:1-28
A. Consignment of Positions	6:1-3
B. Conspiracy of Administrators	6:4-9
C. Consistency of Daniel	6:10-11
D. Conundrum of Darius	6:12-15
E. Control of God	6:16-23
F. Condemnation of Accusers	6:24
G. Command of Darius	6:25-28
VII. DANIEL'S VISION OF THE FOUR BEASTS	7:1-28
A. Message of the Vision	7:1-14
1. Introductory Information	7:1-3
2. Lion	7:4
3. Bear	7:5
4. Leopard	7:6
5. Diverse Beast	7:7-8
6. God's Kingdom	7:9-14
B. Meaning of the Vision	7:15-28
1. The Beasts	7:15-18
2. The Fourth Beast	7:19-25
3. The Kingdom	7:26-28
VIII. DANIEL'S VISION OF THE RAM AND THE MALE GOAT	8:1-27
A. Message of the Vision	8:1-14
1. Introductory Information	8:1-2
2. Ram	8:3-4
3. He Goat	8:5-14
B. Meaning of the Vision	8:15-27
1. Introduction	15-19
2. Ram	8:20
3. He Goat	8:21-27
IX. DANIEL'S VISION OF THE SEVENTY WEEKS	9:1-27
A. Prophecy of Jeremiah	9:1-2
B. Prayer of Daniel	9:3-19
1. Evidence of Repentance	9:3-10
2. Experience of Judgment	9:11-14
3. Entreaty for Forgiveness	9:15-19
C. Program of God	9:20-27
1. Context	9:20-23
2. Content	9:24
3. Chronology	9:25-27
X. DANIEL'S VISION OF A VISITOR FROM HEAVEN	10:1-21
A. Concern of Daniel	10:1-3
B. Communication from God	10:4-21
XI. ANGEL'S MESSAGE ABOUT ISRAEL'S FUTURE	11:1-12:13
A. Rulers Preceding Christ's First Coming	11:1-35

Study Notes

- B. Rulers Preceding Christ's Second Coming
 - 1. Identity of Antichrist
 - 2. Enemies of Antichrist
- C. Events Following Christ's Second Coming
 - 1. Two Resurrections
 - 2. Completed Judgment
- 3. Completed Blessings

Introduction to Daniel

11:36-12:1
11:36-39
11:40-12:1
12:2-13
12:2-3
12:4-10
12:11-13

THE PLACE OF DANIEL IN HISTORY

by Roger L. Peterson

WORLD KINGDOMS	TIMES	LEADERS AND EVENTS
Egyptian	2000 BC	Abraham
	1500 BC	Moses
	1000 BC	David
Assyrian		Hezekiah, Isaiah
Babylonian Medo-Persian	DANIEL 500 BC	Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Nebuchadnezzar Haggai, Zechariah, Cyrus, Darius Esther, Xerxes, Ezra, Nehemiah, Malachi Alexander the Great, Ptolemy, Seleucus Antiochus Epiphanes
Grecian		Augustus Caesar
Roman 0	REVELATION	Jesus Christ, Peter, Paul John
	AD 500	Western Roman Empire Falls Gregory I
	AD 1000	
	AD 1500	Eastern Roman Empire Falls Reformation
	AD 2000	
Roman Kingdom Revived Christ's Millennial Kingdom	(?) (?)	Tribulation: Antichrist +10 Kings Christ Returns to earth

DANIEL			
FOCUS	DIVISIONS		LANGUAGES
HISTORY	KING'S FOOD	1:1	1:1
		1:21	2:3
VISION [HISTORY]	DREAM: GREAT IMAGE	2:1	2:4
HISTORY	FIERY FURNACE	2:49	ARAMAIC
		3:1	
VISION [HISTORY]	DREAM: GREAT TREE	3:30	
		4:1	
HISTORY	WRITING ON WALL	4:37	
		5:1	
	LION'S DEN	5:31	
		6:1	
VISIONS	FOUR BEASTS	6:28	
		7:1	
	RAM AND MALE GOAT	7:28	
		8:1	
	SEVENTY WEEKS	8:27	
		9:1	
ISRAEL'S CONFLICT Angelic Warfare [10] Egypt / Syrian Conflict [11] Tribulation, Resurrection and Christ's Kingdom [12]	9:27	HEBREW	
	10:1		
	12:13		
PLACE: BABYLON / PERSIA		DATE: c.605-536 B.C.	



