

COMMENTARY

DANIEL

Daniel 1

Daniel was taken to Babylon (606 B.C.) with other captives during the reign of Jehoiakim (King of Judah) and Nebuchadnezzar (King of Babylon). Daniel was among other young men who had great potential who were taken to Babylon to be trained for service for Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel and his 3 friends (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego) refused to eat the Kings food but insisted on food that God would approve of. After seeing that these 4 did well, the official in charge continued to allow them to eat from their special diet.

When the King finally called for all the young men to come forth, Daniel and his 3 friends were far superior than anyone else and were chosen to serve the king.

Daniel 2

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and asked for his wise men to: 1. tell him what the dream was and 2. explain the dream. If they could do this, then he would know that they were telling the truth.

When the wise men refused, Nebuchadnezzar made arrangements to have them all executed. When Daniel heard of it, he went to Nebuchadnezzar and asked for some time so that he would be able to interpret.

Daniel then went to his 3 friends and asked them to pray. God answered the prayers and Daniel went to the king to explain the dream.

The great statute represented 4 great kingdoms (Babylonians, Persian-Mede, Greek and Roman) which would all fall and be ultimately be replaced by an eternal kingdom.

Because of Daniel's ability to explain this vision, Nebuchadnezzar promoted Daniel and his friends.

Daniel 3

King Nebuchadnezzar had a giant idol made and insisted that all people worship it. When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego didn't, he insisted that they be thrown into a fiery furnace. The 3 men spoke of their faith that God would care for them and that they would not bow down and worship any idol.

When they were thrown in, those guards who threw them in, died because of the great heat. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego however were unharmed and joined by an angel. When King Nebuchadnezzar saw this, he called for them to come out. He then issued a decree that nobody was to speak against there God.

Daniel 4

King Nebuchadnezzar records the events in this chapter. He had a dream and called Daniel to interpret it.

He had seen a great and prosperous tree (representing him) and an angel came and called for it to be cut down (he would become "insane" and would lose control of his kingdom until he recognized and praised God).

The dream came to pass and when the time was over (3 1/2 years [2 basic seasons and there being 7 seasons total] or 7 years are the common views), his kingdom was restored and he became even greater.

Daniel 5

Four other kings had sat on the throne after Nebuchadnezzar and up to the time of Belshazzar.

Belshazzar threw a great feast and used the articles from the Jerusalem temple as the dishes at his meal. During the evening, a hand appeared and wrote on the wall. The King called to have it read and explained.

Finally, Daniel was brought forth. He reminded Belshazzar how Nebuchadnezzar had been humbled by God, but Belshazzar refused to do any such thing. Because of this God had written on the wall that the Kingdom of Babylon would fall to the Medes and Persians. Daniel was then rewarded.

That same night, the city fell to Darius the Mede.

Daniel 6

Daniel continued to prove himself. Among the Persians he was promoted to be one of the top 4 men. The King was thinking about making him number 2. The other leaders decided to find a way to get rid of Daniel.

The leaders asked the King to sign an irrevocable law that nobody could pray for 30 days, unless they prayed to the King. The King approved and signed it into law.

Daniel, upon reading it, went home and prayed to God. He was arrested and thrown into a den of lions, even though King Darius resisted.

The next morning, Daniel was found alive and unscathed. Those who had tried to get rid of him were then thrown to the lions with their families and they perished.

King Darius then issued a proclamation that all the people must fear and reverence God.

Daniel 7

Daniel had a dream of four beasts (representing four Kingdoms-- probably Babylon, Persian, Greek and Roman). The last beast grew 10 horns; 3 of which were then uprooted by another horn that grew up (kingdoms subsequent to the fourth). The little horn was proud and boastful. It would fight against God's people.

Ultimately the Messiah would come and destroy the enemy. God's people would then enjoy an eternal Kingdom.

Daniel 8

Daniel had another dream. This concerned a powerful ram that could not be overcome (representing the Persians and Medes). Finally a goat came and overthrew the ram (representing the Greeks overthrow of the Persian empire). The goat's horn would be sub-divided into four parts (4 splits of the Greek empire) and the worse part would be overcome by the power of God.

Daniel 9

Daniel had read and understood that Jerusalem would be desolate for 70 years. He prays-- confessing their sin and asking that God might restore His people.

An angel, Gabriel, then appears and speaks to Daniel. He prophesies that Jerusalem will be rebuilt and the Messiah would come about 483 years later (exactly the time between the proclamation to rebuild Jerusalem and when Jesus began His ministry). The Messiah would then be cut off (Jesus' death on the cross) and would then later establish an everlasting covenant (made possible through His resurrection).

Daniel 10

Daniel was given another vision that troubled him deeply. The Lord appeared to him and commended him for his submission to God. The Lord then stated that He would fight against the King of Persia and then the King of Greece would become great.

Daniel 11

(See Chart 12-- taken from: Eerdmans Handbook to the Bible, p. 437)

Daniel 12

Daniel is told of the resurrection and judgement of all men. Wicked will continue in their ways, but those who remain holy and true will live forever!

STUDY GUIDE

DANIEL 1

1. Who were to be brought from the Israel? (vs. 4)
2. What were the Babylonian names of the 4? (vs. 7)
3. What did Daniel ask? (vs. 8)
4. What did Daniel want to eat for 10 days? (vs. 12)
5. What did God give the men? (vs. 17)
6. Who were Daniel and his companions better than? (vs. 20)

DANIEL 2

1. What did Nebuchadnezzar threaten to do? (vs. 5)
2. What did Daniel ask his friends to do? (vs. 18)
3. Why did Daniel praise God? (vs. 19)
4. What was the statue made of? (vs. 32,33)
5. What will the God of heaven do? (vs. 44)

DANIEL 3

1. What were people to do when they heard the instruments? (vs. 5)
2. What was the punishment for disobedience? (vs. 6)
3. Who paid no attention? (vs. 12)
4. What happened to the men who took up the 3 Jews? (vs. 22)
5. What had not happened to the 3 men? (vs. 27)

DANIEL 4

1. What did Nebuchadnezzar see? (vs. 10)
2. What would happen to the king? (vs. 25)
3. What did he do when his sanity was restored? (vs. 34)

DANIEL 5

1. What happened during Belshazzar's feast? (vs. 5)
2. Why had Nebuchadnezzar been deposed and stripped of glory? (vs. 20)
3. What had Belshazzar not done? (vs. 22)
4. What would happen to his kingdom? (vs. 28)
5. What happened that night? (vs. 30,31)

DANIEL 6

1. What did King Darius plan to do to Daniel? (vs. 3)
2. What edict did they persuade Darius to issue? (vs. 7)
3. What did Daniel do when he heard of it? (vs. 10)
4. What did the king say to Daniel? (vs. 16)
5. What had God done? (vs. 22)
6. Who were thrown into the lions den? (vs. 24)

DANIEL 7

1. What came up out of the Sea? (vs. 3)
2. What was the son of man given? (vs. 14)
3. What did the beasts represent? (vs. 17)
4. Against whom, was the horn waging war? (vs. 21)
5. What will the Kingdom of the Most High be? (vs. 27)

DANIEL 8

1. What animal did Daniel first see? (vs. 3)
2. What animal did Daniel see next? (vs. 5)
3. What happened to the first animal? (vs. 7)
4. What did the first animal represent? (vs. 20)
5. What did the second animal represent? (vs. 21)

DANIEL 9

1. How long was the desolation of Jerusalem to last? (vs. 2)
2. How long between the decree for Jerusalem and the coming of the Anointed One? (vs. 25)
3. What would happen to the Anointed One? (vs. 26)

DANIEL 10

1. What was the revelation concerning? (vs. 1)
2. Who was the Lord going to fight against? (vs. 20)
3. Who would follow the prince of Persia? (vs. 20)

DANIEL 11

1. How many more Kings of Persia would there be? (vs. 2)
2. Who would fight against each other? (vs. 11)
3. What would the one kings army do? (vs. 31)

DANIEL 12

1. Who would be delivered? (vs. 1)
2. What will happen to those that sleep in dust? (vs. 2)
3. What would happen to many? (vs. 10)