

The Prophecies
Of
Daniel

...as Fulfilled in History and Looking to the Last Days.

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Contents

Introduction.....	1
The First Dream of Nebuchadnezzar.....	10
The Second Dream of Nebuchadnezzar.....	23
The Four Beasts of Daniel.....	32
The Four Horns and Four Carpenters.....	54
The He Goat and the Ram.....	63
The Seventy Weeks of Daniel.....	76
Daniel Meets the Chief Prince of the Angels.....	90
The Prophecies of Daniel Eleven	106
Daniel Seals the Book.....	144
The Prophecies of Nuclear War.....	158
From The Hasmoneans to Herod the Great.....	171
Bibliography.....	184

Introduction

The book of Daniel is one of the most referred to books in the Holy Bible as one seeks to understand future end times events. God used the prophet Daniel to communicate with the nation Israel of what to expect to happen in their future after their return from captivity by the Babylonian armies. The southern kingdom, Judah, went into captivity during the early seventh and late sixth centuries B.C. The northern kingdom, Israel, went into captivity in 722 B.C. by the Assyrian armies. God gave Daniel specific outcomes for the future of the world and the eventual consummation of His promises that He made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and King David. Many of the prophecies that were given to Daniel came to fulfillment with such accuracy, that many sceptics have brought arguments against the authenticities of the prophecies. This introduction will discuss the history of the prophet Daniel and then will refute the skeptic's arguments against the authenticity of this prophetic book.

As Israel went into captivity at the hands of the Babylonians, they were taken in three separate groups between 605 B.C. and 586 B.C. In the first of the three waves of captivities, King Nebuchadnezzar took the young, scholarly children of the wealthier and royal families of Judah (Daniel 1:3-4). Among that first wave of captives was the young prophet, Daniel, believed to be about 15 years of age. Daniel made an impact in Babylon with King Nebuchadnezzar as God used him to influence the King's eventual conversion into a believer in the Most High God (Daniel 4).

In Daniel chapter one, one can see that Daniel was finding favor with the eunuch assigned to him and his three companions; Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Being newly captive, Daniel wrote about his first year in Babylon in his native language of Hebrew.

⁷ Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

⁸ But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. (Daniel 1:7-8 KJV)

As one reads chapter one, one can understand that Daniel was a very disciplined and loyal man of God as he chose not to defile himself with the Babylonian cuisine. King Nebuchadnezzar found Daniel and his companions

ten times more informed and educated than his own astrologers and magicians. (Daniel 1:20)

One must now understand that Daniel spent time among the Babylonian people and learned their Aramaic language fluently. Aramaic was used by the conquering Assyrians as a language of administration communication; following them, was the Babylonian and Persian empires which ruled from India to Ethiopia, and employed Aramaic as the official language. For this period, then (about 700–320 B.C.), Aramaic held a position similar to that occupied by English today. The most important documents of this period are numerous papyri from Egypt and land of Canaan.

Daniel wrote Daniel chapter 1 through chapter 2 verse 3 in his original native Hebrew language and then chapter 2 starting in verse 4, Daniel started to write his text in Aramaic. He continued writing this book in Aramaic until chapter 8. He then switched back to writing this book in Hebrew, once again in chapter 8 verse 1, and finished the book in Hebrew.

Many non-believers and scoffers protest to the truth of the Holy Scriptures and want to bring doubt into the authenticity of the book of Daniel because of its amazing accuracy of its already fulfilled prophecies. They will accuse this book of being written after the events that were fulfilled, stating, that the difference in languages was a clear sign that someone else penned the last five chapters. If one is a believer in Jesus Christ as God, they should then refer to Matthew 24:15 where Jesus is quoted “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:” God himself recognized that Daniel was a prophet and that he wrote Daniel 9:27.

Some will say that the book was written in Babylon, until the last five chapters, and then Daniel went back to Israel after the return of the Jews to their land seventy years later, then finished it in Hebrew from Israel. Though it does seem plausible, there is no documentation anywhere that Daniel ever went back to Israel after the seventy years and may have died in Babylon, then ruled by the Medes\Persian Empire. Still, others propose an explanation that is seen in certain parts of Jewish dogma from the same period - that the Aramaic was for the layperson and the Hebrew was for the more academic/elite. This makes a lot of sense in light of the narrative/visionary breakdown. With the prophecy’s needing to be passed for those in the future, it is believed that Daniel purposely wrote the visionary chapters in Hebrew so that it could be passed down to the generations to come. Because the seventh chapter is visionary, it makes this theory a

problem. However, there is a lovely textual/narrative symmetry that links chapters 2-7 in pairs (2 and 7, 3 and 6, 4 and 5) which would then tie the seventh chapter in some way to the first section, making its Aramaic an understandable choice.

One can clearly see that the first chapter was an introductory to the experiences by Daniel and thus, he used Hebrew for his text as he wrote it before he was indoctrinated into making Aramaic his language while he was in captivity among those Aramaic speaking people. Knowing the man named Daniel can give you an understanding of how both he and God would have thought to write these last 5 chapters in Hebrew, because of these very important prophecies given to be revealed to the generations to come.

Daniel was commanded by God to seal up this book until the time of the end (Daniel 12:4, 8-9). He knew that the rest of the scriptures were written in Hebrew for his people to pass down. Could it be that Daniel wrote these visionary prophecies in Hebrew in obedience to God to make sure that they could be read and understood in the time of the end?

Once again, scoffers and false accusers of the authenticity of the book of Daniel have accused the book of Daniel having been written later on into the first century B.C. and even after the time of Jesus Christ. Their attempt is to discredit the precision of the fulfilled prophecies of the entire book.

Satan and his false church, Roman Catholicism, has allowed for an apocryphal book of Daniel that consists of three additional chapters. These three chapters are clearly un-inspired and read as ungodly tales that contradict the integrity of God as well as the prophet Daniel. With the existence of these heretical three chapters as well as a revised first twelve chapters, scoffers use this as a platform, stating that the prophecies of the book of Daniel were that of hindsight and not the foreknowledge of God. These accusers imply that the book is a forgery and never written by Daniel during the time of the Babylonian captivity between 605-535 B.C.

Non-believers in God can hardly accept that the almighty creator would reveal nearly six hundred years of prophetic events, especially, as precisely accurate as the book of Daniel has revealed. It is even more upsetting to them that there are still end time events yet to occur. That would mean that God really exists and did visit the earth and offered Himself as a sacrifice for their sins only, if they will accept His gift of grace and repent of their sins. Instead, scoffing at the reality of a historical and prophetic book, written hundreds of years before earth changing events occurred, is preferred so to not have to repent of sin and humble themselves to a God that loves them. Why would someone go through the trouble of fabricating a book, as they look back in history, and lie about it as written five to six

hundred years before and still maintain such holiness and convey such righteousness of a Holy God as they worship Him? If someone were so evil to perform such a travesty, would they really know what true holiness was and, why would they convey it in a book?

There are those that hold to the date of the mid to late second century B.C., during the Maccabean Era, as the time the book of Daniel was written. This would imply that a person had looked back through hindsight of the fall of Babylon to the Meds/Persians, then the fall of the Meds/Persians to Alexander the Great of Greece and then the dividing up of the four kingdom by the Greek generals after Alexander the Great's death. There were many battles that took place in those times that Daniel prophesied exactly as they were to happen. A-Millennialists, Post-Millennialists and Preterits believe that Daniel predicted the Millennial Kingdom to ensue at the end of the Antiochus Epiphanes IV reign, this would mean that the Millennial Kingdom had been started during the Maccabean Era. This would make a single millennial period into being now two millennia long. The truth will be explained later in the chapters containing this prophecy of Antiochus Epiphanes IV (Daniel 11).

In the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947-1956 in Qumran, eight manuscripts of Daniel were found that survived in a cave hidden. It is believed they were hidden by who may have been the Essenes, or the asylum for supporters of the traditional priestly family of the Zadokites against the Hasmonean priest/kings. These manuscripts date back to the late 2nd century B.C. and were being protected from destruction. If the book of Daniel was written during this time, it is highly unlikely that the Qumran community would have considered this as divinely inspired scripture along with the rest of the Old Testament manuscripts that they had chosen to hide and protect. The composition of the Qumran Daniel manuscripts date back to 321 B.C, which would deny any claims that the book of Daniel was written in the second century B.C.¹ The manuscripts that were in existence at the time of the Qumran discovery agree with the manuscripts found. God used the Essenes to hide His word so they could be found during the last days. Once again, God's word is true and He has promised to preserve his word forever.

The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever.
(Psalm 12:6-7 KJV)

¹ Steve R. Miller, *The American Commentary, An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture, Daniel Vol. 18*, (Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 1994):37-38

The prophet Ezekiel makes mention of Daniel in his writings; Ezekiel 14:14, 20; 28:3. This shows strong evidence to Daniel and his reputation and fame as Ezekiel wrote his book after his ministry started in 593 B.C. Daniel was taken captivity in 605 B.C., which gave him 12 years to make his name known back in Jerusalem of what he had already accomplished. It was only his second year in captivity that he was named as the chief magician of Babylon after he interpreted the first dream of Nebuchadnezzar. Ezekiel names Daniel with the ancient heroes, Noah and Job, as he was condemning the Jewish people for their idolatry and used the three as shining examples for their faithfulness to God.² *“Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.” (Ezekiel 14:20 KJV)*

Daniel lived during the entire period of dominance of the Babylonian Empire. Before taken captivity, Daniel experienced the last years of the southern kingdom of Judah. By age 34, Daniel had lived during the reign and fall of five Judean monarchs (Josiah 640-609 B.C., Jehoahaz 609 B.C., Jehoiakim 609-597 B.C., Jehoiachin 598-597 B.C. and Zedekiah 597-586 B.C.). Judah fell for good under King Zedekiah in 586 B.C. and the temple built by Solomon had been destroyed.

In 625 B.C., Nabopolassar began his reign over Babylon. The Babylonian Kingdom became dominant during the reign of his son, King Nebuchadnezzar, who began his reign after the death of his father. Nebuchadnezzar had been leading the army at that time and was immediately ascended to his father's throne upon his death in September of 605 B.C. The book of Daniel gives “one on one” interactions between Daniel and this great monarch whom was the greatest ruler of the Neo-Babylonian period and thought of as one of the most competent monarchs of ancient times.³

Daniel the prophet is considered one of the most beloved and righteous men of God in the entire Holy Bible. Daniel wrote prophecies that have been attempted to be interpreted for 2,600 years. He lived during the time of the prophets such as Jeremiah, Micah, Amos, Joel, Zechariah and Ezekiel. This book will bring unto you a complete understanding of the prophecies of Daniel and how accurate He was when he proclaimed what was told to him by God and His messengers. The other prophets had written on events that are in correlation with Daniel and all put together, give amazing clarity of the prophecies and demonstrate that the foreknowledge demonstrated by these

² Ibid., 41

³ Ibid., 44

prophets can only be consider God inspired.

Finally, I want to express what the scriptures say about the understanding of the book of Daniel. Daniel was frustrated when He was given the prophecies unto which he could not understand the meanings. He was told by God that the words of this prophecy were “*closed and sealed till the time of the end*”. For twenty-six hundred years men have tried to interpret these prophecies and many pulpits preach interpretations that occurred hundreds and even thousands of years ago. If God meant what He told Daniel in verse nine, why would someone hold fast to those interpretations that were given to explain the prophecies of future events, while those that interpreted them were not living in the “time of the end”?

And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. (Daniel 12:8-10 KJV)

Interpretations of the events that are yet to happen have been preached in pulpits and written in books that may be wrong. I will even admit that my interpretations could even be held to be wrong. One thing that is for certain, the events that have occurred in the last 67 years gives us evidence that we now live in the “time of the end” or “end times”. The event that occurred on May 15, 1948 was the first prophecy fulfillment that occurred since the destruction of Jerusalem and scattering of the Jews back in A.D. 70. The 1948 event was the fulfillment of the Ezekiel 36-37 prophecy as well as Isaiah 66:7-8, whereby Israel would be gathered back to their land and possess the land. This is a clear indication that God would then bring in His fulfillment of the remaining prophecies. Even Jesus Christ gave an indication that that the events would be fulfilled within that last, single generation in Matthew 24:34.

When reading Bible prophecy, one has to be able to interpret prophecy correctly. If one reads something that is to be read literally as something that is allegorical, they imagine something or create something that is not really there. Also if someone interprets something that is meant to be allegorical as being literal, can really be delivered as a confusing mess. Spiritual discernment is needed from the Holy Spirit to assist each person in understanding the meanings. The Holy Spirit equips each Christian with gifts for church edification. Some will have the gift of discernment while others will not. This is not to burden one from another but to keep the church close

with one another as one's strengths will be the others weakness. Separate, believers are not strong, but together the church is strong.

Allegorical interpretation has its place in many prophecies while others prophecies are to be understood literally. Never will God mix allegory in the same passage with literal meanings. The Book of Revelation has literal revelations from Christ to the Apostle John and, as one can see, has passages that are not interpreted as literal and should be interpreted outside of those passages that are literal. Daniel has been given prophecies that have visions of allegory that need to be interpreted and then, once understood, placed with the other allegorical references and recognize the literal meaning once there is an understanding of its allegory. This is a very difficult task if the Holy Spirit is not living inside you. I have found, at times, to seek others whom have already been given a passages meaning, so that I can make more sense of what the spirit of God is telling me. Prayer is the power that is given to each believer to obtain the right interpretations of these prophecies. God is faithful and, if given time, will answer one's question about an interpretation. One has to have discernment of what someone else has interpreted as they could have misinterpreted the passage altogether.

The interpretations of the book of Daniel has now been opened. It is being revealed to those filled with the Holy Spirit of God. Not everyone will see the interpretations as clear as those that God has revealed these interpretations to. Men from the modern day pulpits still preach interpretations from Seminary classes and textbooks that may have not been interpreted by someone that has been given the correct interpretation. Even elder theologians, who still preach from the pulpits, have not been given the true interpretation. The men that interpreted the prophecies before the time of the end may have not been shared the interpretations. God reveals to certain chosen people and even may share certain interpretations for one person and hide certain things so that others will be revealed the rest. This has been true of God even while the prophets wrote what God was telling them what to write into the Old Testament.

The book of Daniel was to be sealed up from full interpretation until the time of the end, and that time is now. I may not know all interpretations absolutely correct, but I know that I see the book of Daniel much clearer than most. This book that I have written will bring to you the opening up of the sealed book of Daniel as God has revealed to me and others in these end of times. The contents of this book will confirm and cross reference events from the past as well as those that will be happening in the future as spoken by God to Daniel and the other prophets whom God gave revelation.

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. (Daniel 12:4 KJV)

