

DANIEL

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Date and Authorship

1. Daniel was a captive Jew, carried off to Babylon after the first conquest of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar in 605BC
Dan 1:1-6, esp vs 6
2. Book covers the time from 605BC to the 3rd year of Cyrus, 536BC . Dan 10:1 (Dan 11:1 refers back to 539BC)
Chapters 10 through 12 forms the Fourth Vision received by Daniel.
3. Daniel refers to himself in the third person ch 1-6 and in the first person from chapter 7 on (7:2,15,28 8:1,15,27; 9:2,22; 10:2,7,11,12 12:5)
4. Ezekiel confirms Daniel's existence. Ezk 14:14,20; 28:3
5. Christ also confirmed both he and his prophetic ministry.
Mt 24:15; Mk 13:14

B. The Hebrew Bible which is broken down into 3 parts (Law, Prophets, and the Writings), places Daniel at the end of the writings.

This is because Daniel's function was that of governmental official and inspired writer, rather than a ministering prophet.

Included in this section were Job, Psalms and Proverbs, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

C. The Book of Daniel is classified as an apocalyptic writing along with Ezekiel and Zechariah in the Old Testament and Revelation in the New Testament.

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- D. Dan 2:4 – 7:28 was written in Aramaic (Ezra 4:8 – 6:18; 7:12-26) while the rest of the book was written in Hebrew. Aramaic was the predominant language at the time of Daniel.
- E. Some believe that the "times of the Gentiles" Dan 2-7, was written in Aramaic, while the Israel history revelation was written in Hebrew.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK

LONG VIEW (see separate file)

SHORT VIEW

1. Nineveh, the Assyrian capital (Book of Jonah 793-753BC, 2 Kg 14:23-25; Jonah 1:1-2) fell before the assault of Babylon and Media in 612BC.
2. The Assyrians who fled Nineveh regrouped in Haran.
3. Nabopolassar (father of Nebuchadnezzar) moved against these Assyrian forces in 610 BC. They fled further west beyond the Euphrates River.
4. In 609BC these remaining Assyrians sought help from Pharaoh Neco II of Egypt. Josiah, king of Judah, hoping to incur the favor of the Babylonians, tried to stop the Egyptians from joining Assyria and met the Egyptian army at Megiddo. Josiah's army was defeated and Josiah was killed in the attempt. 2 Kg 23:28-30; 2 Chron 35:20-27

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5. Pharaoh Neco joined the Assyrians and together they assaulted Babylon at Haran.
Their combined forces were defeated and Assyria dropped from world power. Isa 10:5-15
6. Nebuchadnezzar – Nabopolassar's son – led Babylon against Egypt in 605BC and defeated her at the battle of Carchemish. While pursuing the defeated Egyptians, he received word that his father had died and he returned to Babylon to be crowned. (He reigned for 43 years 605-562BC)
7. After his ordination, he returned to Palestine and attacked Jerusalem in September of 605BC.
It was at this time that Daniel and his companions were taken to Babylon.
8. He returned to Judea a second time in 597 BC to put down Judah's rebellion led by Jehoiachin.
It was at this time that Ezekiel, along with 10,000 others were taken to Babylon. 2 Kg 24:8-20; 2 Chron 36:6-10; Ezk 1:1-3
9. He returned a third time in 588BC.
After a long siege the city walls were broken through and the city, and the temple were destroyed (586BC).
2 Kg 25:1-21; Jer 34:1-7; 39:1-7; 52:2-11
10. The restoration of the Jews back to their land was made possible when in 539BC, Cyrus overthrew Babylon and established the

Medo-Persian Empire.

11. Having a policy to restore displaced peoples to their lands, Cyrus issued a decree in 538BC that permitted the Jews who desired to return to Jerusalem. 2 Chron 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4

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12. From the first deportation (Daniel was taken) 605BC to the rebuilding of the temple foundation 536BC was 70 years. From the destruction of the temple 586BC, until the temple was rebuilt 515BC was 70 years.

13. The Babylonian kings Daniel was involved with:

- a. Nabopolassar 627-605BC
- b. Nebuchadnezzar 605-562BC
- c. Evil-Merodach 562-560BC
Nebuchadnezzar's son
- c. Neriglissar 560-556BC
Nebuchadnezzar's son
- d. Labashi Marduk (2 months) 556BC
Neriglissar's son
- e. Nabonidus 556-539BC
Military Leader
wife was high priestess of moon god
- f. Belshazzar 553-539BC
oldest son of Nabonidus/Co-regent
descendant of Nebuchadnezzar Dan 5:2

NOTE: Insert "A short history of the Nation of Israel