

Through the Bible Course

April 27, 1947

Daniel

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Key Thought: World Empires

Key Verse: 10:14

The Man Daniel: Was born in Jerusalem of royal descent (1:3). He was carried away captive to Babylon with first group. At times, he occupied high offices in both Babylonian and Persian governments.

Time: Daniel lived during the period of the captivity, and until very near its close (1:21). He was contemporary with Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Ezra.

The other prophets were concerned mainly with Israel and other nations are subjects of predictions only as they come in contact with Israel. But Daniel prophesied after the destruction of Jerusalem and his prophecies have to do almost entirely with Gentile nations.

- I. History Recorded – chapters 1 through 6
 1. Daniel and companions in exile. They were true to God and their religious convictions – chapter 1
 2. Nebuchadnezzar's dream and interpretation – chapter 2
 - a. Four world kingdoms
 1. Babylonians (625-536 BC)
 2. Persian (536-330 BC)
 3. Grecian
 4. Roman Empire
 3. Golden image must be worshiped – chapter 3
 - a. Shows pride of Gentile world
 - b. Fiery furnace
 4. Nebuchadnezzar's second dream – madness – chapter 4
 5. Belshazzar's feast – chapter 5
 - a. Shows impiety and irreverence of Gentile world.
Note: History tells us that Cyrus diverted the river Euphrates into a new channel and entered the city by the old riverbed; that he captured the city while the Babylonians were carousing at an annual feast of the gods.
 6. Darius' proclamation – chapter 6
 - a. Shows blasphemy of Gentile world
 - b. Daniel in lions' den
- II. History Predicted – chapters 7 through 12 – Four Visions
 1. Vision of four beasts – chapter 7. This is supplementary of chapter 2. Power of

wickedness can be broken only by Christ (verses 9, 13, and 22)

2. Vision of ram and he-goat – chapter 8. Deals with second and third kingdoms of chapter 2 and 7. Medo-Persia conquered by Alexander; Greece is divided into Syria, Egypt, Macedonia and Asia Minor.

3. Vision of seventy weeks – chapter 9. (“day” is treated as “year” or week equals 7 years). Jerusalem rebuilt after 49 years; Messiah cut off after 434 years. Final victory after 7 years; (a lapse may be indicated between the 69 weeks and the 1 week)

4. The final vision – chapters 10 through 12 – struggle between Syria and Egypt. Antiochus Epiphanes, a type of anti-Christ, a power to be finally and completely destroyed by the appearance of the Son of God from heaven. Chapter 12 takes prediction from immediate future to an indefinite distance – resurrection and final victory of God.

Note: I am indebted to Dr. W. A. Alexander, First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, Louisiana, for this outline.