

An Old Testament Glance

The Major Prophets Books – Daniel, Part 1

Name Meaning	Dates of Service	Home Town	# of Chapters	Kings Reigning	Audience Targeted	Theme or Subject
"God is my Judge"	606-530 BC	Jerusalem	12	Jehoiakim-Zed Neb, Cyrus	Jews in Judea & Captivity	Judah in Captivity
Prophets Ministering at the same time:			Jeremiah, Ezekiel			
Scripture References:			2 Kings 23-25; Matt. 24:25; Mk. 13:14; Daniel 1-12			

BRIEF OUTLINE OF DANIEL

Daniel 1-7 The Story of the Fall of the Gentile Nations

Daniel 8-12 The Story of the Rise & Restoration of Israel

When Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon surrounded Jerusalem and took King Jehoiakim & the city hostage. He took all valuables from the temple.

1. What else did the Babylonian king want? (Daniel 1:4) _____
2. What were the desired characteristics of these Jewish prisoners? (1:4)
 - a. "In whom there was no _____."
 - b. "but, _____".
 - c. "Gifted in all _____."
 - d. "Possessing _____."
 - e. "Quick to _____."
 - f. "Ability to _____ in the king's palace."
 - g. "Whom they might teach the _____ & _____."

King Nebuchadnezzar wanted these sharp young Jews to enroll in a 3-year training program & then be appointed to serve in his government. (1:5).

Many young candidates were taken to Babylon. Four of these guys were actually listed by name. *Guess who one of them was? Right! Daniel.*

The four young men listed were: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah. However, King Neb's chief of staff gave them new names (Babylonian names):

Daniel became Belteshazzar, Hananiah became Shadrach, Mishael became Meshach, Azariah became Abed-nego. (The new names were whimpy names – very weak & idolatrous)

3. Do these guys sound familiar? Where do we see them next? (3:13)

Our 4 young trainees must have graduated; here they are with important positions in the Babylonian government (1:19 – chosen to serve; 3:30 – promoted)

If you read through Daniel, you will find that the three friends are not mentioned again after Daniel 3:30.

4. However, how long was Daniel to serve in the government? (1:19)

Did you notice that the leader mentioned in Daniel 1:19 is the leader of another country, not Babylon?

A Quick Summary of Daniel's age (Just an educated & researched guess)

- a. He could have been 17 or 18 when he arrived in Babylon.
- b. Babylonian soldiers had to be at least 20 to serve in the military.
- c. Daniel would need to have been at least 20 to serve in the government.
- d. Some scholars think he was 70 in the lion's den & died in his 80s.

5. What were the skills that the four young men had? (1:17)

a. (The three friends) _____

b. (Daniel) _____

It appears that the three friends served in administrative duties & authority in the province of Babylon (the capital city area). Daniel must have served as a counselor to the king until the Babylonian empire was defeated by the Persians.

6. He must have been one of the king's counselors. What was his position called in Daniel 2:13) _____

7. He must have been important in the government. How easy was it for him to get an audience with the king (2:16) _____

8. Nebuchadnezzar's First Dream

a. Did the Babylonian "Wise Men" know the dream? (2:10) ___Yes ___No

b. Could the "Wise Men" interpret the dream? (2:10) ___Yes ___No

c. How did Daniel know the dream (2:19) _____

Daniel told the meaning of the statue even though he had no idea of all the details. He told King Neb of five future kingdoms after his; he didn't know who they were either.

But we do, because can look back in history & see what happened. Isn't that amazing?

The nations (kingdoms) are:

Babylon, Persia, Greece, Romans, Divided Roman Provinces, Jesus Christ

For us, at this point in time, all are past except the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.



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The Major Prophets Books – Daniel, Part 2

Name Meaning	Dates of Service	Home Town	# of Chapters	Kings Reigning	Audience Targeted	Theme or Subject
"God is my Judge"	606-530 BC	Jerusalem	12	Jehoiakim-Zed Neb, Cyrus	Jews in Judea & Captivity	Judah in Captivity
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9. What bad decision did King Neb make after dream #1? (3:1-7)

King Nebuchadnezzar was an ungodly man who could talk religious; he was also a proud man who was hung-up on himself. He probably needed some meds too.

10. The statue was supposed to be worshipped: (3:6)

a. Who refused to fall down & worship? (3:8-18)

b. What was the penalty for not worshipping the statue? (3:15)

c. How did this story end? (3:16-30) _____

11. Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream

a. Did he tell the Babylonian "Wise Men" the dream? (4:7) ___ Yes ___ No

b. Did the "Wise Men" interpret the dream? (4:7) ___ Yes ___ No

c. Did he call in Daniel to hear the dream? (4:8) ___ Yes ___ No

d. Did Daniel interpret the dream? (4:19-27) ___ Yes ___ No

The vision was a great tree, full of leaves & fruit; this tree was King Neb. A voice came from heaven & ordered the tree to be cut down; 12 months passed; prideful King Neb became insane, was driven from the kingdom, and grazed like an animal. (4:28-33)

12. After a period of time, King Neb's mental stability returned. What was his attitude about the God of Israel then? (4:34-37)

Soon thereafter, Darius, king of Persia defeated the Babylonians. (5:30-31)

13. King Darius chose 120 men to become governors over the empire.
- a. Was Daniel chosen to be one of the governors? ___ Yes ___ No
 - b. Were the other governors happy about Daniel's authority? ___ Yes ___ No
 - c. Where did Daniel end up? (6:10-23) _____
 - d. How did that story end? (6:24) _____

Daniel 6:28 says, "Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius & Cyrus."

A Quick Summary of some of the Persian Kings

- a. *Cyrus the Great (550-529 BC) conquered Babylon. (2 Chr. 36:22)*
- b. *He took control of Babylon about 36 years after the Jews went into exile.*
- c. *He sent Zerubbabel & his convoy back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and the worship system.*
- d. *The enemies in Judah hassled the building project through all of the Persian reigns of Cyrus the Great, Cambyses, and Darius.*
- e. *The next Persian king, Xerxes, was the king who married Esther.*
- f. *The next Persian king, Artaxerxes, sent Nehemiah to Jerusalem to rebuilt the city walls.*

14. The rest of Daniel concentrates on the visions from God describing the kingdoms to come in the world.

- a. What vision does he see in Daniel 7? _____

If you said "Four Beasts coming up out of the sea", you are correct.

It is the same subject matter as in King Neb's dream.

			<i>Daniel's Vision</i>
<i>Remember the Big Statue:</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>- Babylon</i>	<i>Lion</i>
	<i>Chest & Arms</i>	<i>- Persia</i>	<i>Bear</i>
	<i>Belly & Thighs</i>	<i>- Greece</i>	<i>Leopard</i>
	<i>Legs</i>	<i>- Roman</i>	<i>Terrible beast</i>
	<i>Feet</i>	<i>- Divided Roman</i>	
	<i>Rock</i>	<i>- Kingdom of Jesus Christ</i>	<i>Lord & Saints</i>

The rest of Daniel discusses our future, and all the kingdoms we will see in our lifetimes. You say, "why study all this"?

15. Does it comfort you that God knows the beginning from the end? He is sovereign over all kingdoms; He sets them up & He tears them down. He knows our lives & is the Blessed Controller of what happens.
