

DANIEL - Book of Daniel Overview

DN-01

One of the great prophetic books of Scripture is the Old Testament book of Daniel. The human race would be at a tremendous loss without this book, authored by the prophet who bears its name. But as with all books of the Bible, we must recognize that each book must 1) point to Christ, 2) be understood through the lens of the Cross, and 3) be applied to the heart and life, not just the intellect. The book of Daniel is no exception. Matter-of-fact, Christ Himself placed a blessing upon all who study this book. {Matt.24:15}

As we explore its pages we will find an overview of the great empires of history outlined, woven in a storyline of one of the greatest kings in history. We also find what happened to this haughty monarch who dared assume to take the glory and praise, attributed alone to God. But the drama continues as the grandson takes the throne as a teenager, rejecting the God of heaven and the good news in such a bold and arrogant fashion as to forfeit not only his own life, but ending the empire's reign.

About midway through the book we see the second kingdom overtake the first in such a work of military stratagem, that it becomes the model or typology of the 'destruction' of spiritual "Babylon" at the end of time. But we also see in the "writing on the wall" in the drama of that story, elements of the judgment, which we will look at more closely in the study of that chapter. Along with this second kingdom which takes over Babylon, comes a king who becomes a close friend to the prophet himself, now aged in years. However, through the cunning plot of jealous presidents and counsellors to the king, the prophet is cast into a den of lions, due to his religious adherence to the King of kings. In the same chapter is revealed God's remarkable deliverance of His 'greatly beloved' servant.

Through the first half of the book, we can see how as "a type of Christ" (Daniel and his three friends) shows up accomplishing the work of Redemption in Judgment. This is not by mistake or happen stance. The God of heaven ordained that multiple lessons be taught in this great drama, both historic and prophetic, of the book of Daniel.

As the book progresses, we not only see an unfolding of each successive kingdom/ nation, but the unfolding of prophecy, which is really history in advance. To the astute reader, it becomes clear that the last half of the book increases in complexity as the major prophecies become the author's focus. Serious theological and spiritual truths are interwoven within and through these prophecies which will be fulfilled toward the end of this world's history. The discerning reader will take note and through the investigative powers of the mind under control of the Spirit of God, will apply these truths to his/her life just as the apostle outlined in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

Such prophecies hold deep significance to God's people, especially the generations in the "time of the end" when this great book of Daniel is 'unsealed' as indicated in the Apocalypse, the last book of holy Scripture. These generations which will live when "the

hour of His Judgment” begins, will give birth in the passage of time to that final generation who will at last “grow up” responding and resounding to God’s call. He thus will enable that generation to “**lighten** the earth with His glory” in one last full and final display of His character to a world in darkness.

Daniel’s last chapter, reveals how that generation will “turn many to righteousness, as the stars forever”, and usher in the consummation of the ages. This great book ends with a blessing to “him who cometh unto the 1335 days.

It is our privilege to read and study this great Book, which the Son of man instructed us to do, in the days when “the God of heaven shall set up His Kingdom.”

Daniel Overview

First Half	{	Chapter 1:	Health Message (Preparation for Present Truth Message)	<i>History Drama full of Hidden Truths</i>
		Chapter 2:	Dream Interpretation (1 st Death Decree)	
		Chapter 3:	Golden Image (2 nd Death Decree) –Church	
		Chapter 4:	Cut Tree Down (2 nd Death Decree) –World	
		Chapter 5:	Babylon Overtaken (Probation Closed)	
		Chapter 6:	Lion’s Den (3 rd Death Decree)	
Second Half	{	Chapter 7:	Prophetic Overview of World Empires Part A -Religious Perspective Part B -Investigative Judgment	<i>Principle of Repeat and Enlarge</i>
		Chapter 8:	World Empires – 3 rd , 4 th , & 5 th Kingdoms --2300 Day Prophecy--	
		Chapter 9:	Daniel’s Corporate/Intercessory Prayer 70 th Week Prophecy	
		Chapter 10:	Vision of Christ, the Heavenly Messenger (Principles of Fasting and Prayer in the Great Controversy)	
		Chapter 11:	History of the Roman Empire—Pagan & Papal Phase	
		Chapter 12:	Time of Trouble—Righteous /Wicked contrasted --Timeline of Final Crisis	
				<i>Principle of Repeat and Enlarge</i>

SOP REFERENCES REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Daniel stood in his lot to bear his testimony which was sealed until the time of the end, when the first angel's message should be proclaimed to our world. These matters are of infinite importance in these last days... The book of Daniel is unsealed in the revelation to John, and carries us forward to the last scenes of this earth's history. {TM 115.3}

Read the book of Daniel. Call up, point by point, the history of the kingdoms there represented. Behold statesmen, councils, powerful armies, and see how God wrought to abase the pride of men, and lay human glory in the dust. God alone is represented as great. In the vision of the prophet He is seen casting down one mighty ruler and setting up another. He is revealed as the monarch of the universe, about to set up His everlasting kingdom--the Ancient of days, the living God, the Source of all wisdom, the Ruler of the present, the Revealer of the future. Read and understand how poor, how frail, how short-lived, how erring, how guilty, is man in lifting up his soul unto vanity. {16MR 333.3}

We are to comprehend the deep things of God. Angels desire to look into the truths that are revealed to the people who with contrite hearts are searching the word of God, and praying for greater lengths and breadths and depths and heights of the knowledge which He alone can give. {COL 133.1}

When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart. {TM 114.3}

The prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation should be carefully studied, and in connection with them the words, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." {Ev 196.2; GW 148.1}