

Bible Reading Notes
Daniel

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Daniel 1

1:1 – third year – This was 605 BC. This was the first exile to Babylon and included Ezekiel.

1:8 – Daniel resolved – Daniel must have had faithful parents who taught him the law of God, even while Israel was on their downward spiral spiritually.

1:9 – compassion and favor – This was part of the fulfillment of 1 Kings 8:50.

1:21 – first year of King Cyrus = 539 BC. Daniel served in the government for the complete duration of the exile.

Daniel 2

2:4 – Daniel 2:4-7:8 is written in Aramic.

2:28 – God in heaven – True God in contrast to false gods mentioned in v. 11.

2:36-43 – The dream is about four kingdoms: Babylon (v. 38), Medo-Persia (v. 39), Greece (v. 39), and Rome (v. 40).

2:44 – All earthly kingdoms come to an end, but the Kingdom of God will never end. This is the kingdom established by Christ.

2:47 – your God is God of gods – This theme will come up repeatedly.

Daniel 3

3:1 – the image was 90' high and 9' wide.

3:28 – Another declaration of the superiority of the Lord over the gods of the nations.

Daniel 4

4:1-2 – This is an account written by Nebuchadnezzar testifying to the greatness of the Lord.

4:3 – This is the ongoing theological theme of the book of Daniel.

4:16 – beast’s mind – This is called Zoanthropy, where a human believes he is an animal.

4:17 – to the end that – This was the purpose in the Lord giving Nebuchadnezzar his dream.

Daniel 5

5:1 – The book jumps here to 539 BC. Belshazzar was the last king of Babylon. This is the year that the Persians conquered the Babylonians. Daniel is now in his 80’s.

5:31 – Darius – Was appointed by Cyrus, the king of the Medes and Persians, to rule over the province of Babylon. Some commentators believe Darius is another name for Cyrus.

Daniel 6

6:10 – as he had done previously – Knowing the law, Daniel did not change his behavior.

6:26 – Not only does Darius recognize the Lord as God, but commands that all of his subjects do the same.

Daniel 7

The second half of Daniel is a series of visions which covers from Daniel's time to the end.

7:1 – Belshazzar was the last king of Babylon. In Daniel, chapters 7-8 occur chronologically between chapters 4-5.

7:3 – four great beasts – These represent four kingdoms (v. 17): Babylon (v. 4), Medo-Persia (v. 5), Greece (v. 6), and Rome (v. 7).

7:8 – a little horn – This is referring to the antichrist who will come at the end according to 2 Thessalonians 2.

7:9-12 – The King of kings takes his throne and puts an end to all the beasts and their rebellion.

7:13-14 – son of man – Christ is the son of man who is given dominion and a kingdom. This is the basis for Christ's use of the name Son of Man during his ministry.

Daniel 8

8:3 – ram – This refers to the kings of Media and Persia (v. 20).

8:5 – male goat – This is a reference to the Greek kings (v. 21). Alexander the Great is the horn that is broken, a reference to his death at 33 years old.

8:9 – a little horn – Refers to Antiochus Epiphanes who put an end to the sacrifices in the temple. The sacrifices were restored in December 164 BC by Judas Maccabees.

Daniel 9

9:2 – Daniel’s prayer is based on the promise of the Word of God in Jeremiah 25:11.

9:24 -seventy weeks – Reformed interpreters generally understand this period being either the period between 538 BC (return from the exile) to 70 AD (the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans) or 605 BC (first exile) to the return of Christ. I prefer the former.

Daniel 10-12

10:13 – prince – This is not a physical ruler but a spiritual demon. This spiritual battle was won with the help of the angel, Michael.

11:3-4 – These verses summarize the reign of Alexander the Great. After his death, his kingdom was divided up among four generals.

11:5-20 – These verses are concerning two of the four kingdoms which resulted in the division of Alexander’s empire.

11:21-35 – contemptible person – Antiochus Epiphanes IV was a great enemy of the Jewish people. He plundered the temple, stopped the regular sacrifices, erected an altar to Zeus, and sacrificed a pig on it (v. 31). Faithful Jews (v. 32) cleansed the temple and restored the sacrifices in December 164 BC.

11:36-12:3 – This part of the vision is yet future for us. It involves the antichrist and his work, of which Antiochus was a foreshadow.