

1 – THE BOOK OF DANIEL: INTRODUCTION

I. Why Study Daniel?

- There is confusion among God's people as we find ourselves in these times.
- There is an ignorance concerning what the Bible actually says.
- There is a tendency to know the interpretations of others rather than scripture itself.
- It is our desire that you become informed of what the scriptures say.

Scripture: Daniel 12:9-10

⁹ He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. ¹⁰ Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.

II. A Realistic Approach

A. A Diversity of Views

- We need to recognize that good Christians have different views.

B. Flexibility in Interpretation

- Don't be dogmatic about your interpretations.
- Recognize that the church has struggled to understand this book for centuries.

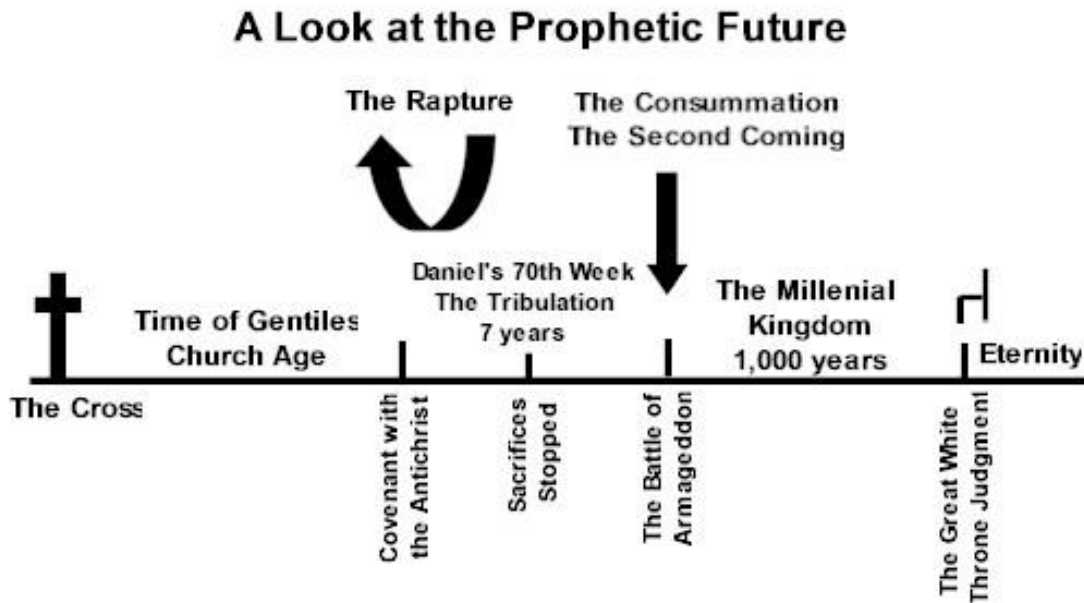
C. Understand the Purpose

- The purpose of the book is to provide hope in the midst of trials.

III. Our Approach to the Study

- We will use the literal method of interpretation.
- This study will see a distinction between the church and Israel.
- The rapture is the church meeting Jesus in the air as a distinct event at his second coming.
- This study will view the tribulation as a literal seven-year period.
- The study will view the millennium as a literal 1,000-year reign by Jesus Christ.

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IV. The Author and Occasion

- Daniel was a Jew who was carried off in the first Babylonian conquest in 605 B.C.
- The book covers material until the third year of Cyrus in 536 B.C.
- The book was written in two languages: Hebrew and Aramaic.
- Chapters 1 & 8 to 12 are written in Hebrew and Chapters 2 to 7 in Aramaic.
- If he were 16 when captured, he was 85 in Cyrus' third year.
- Daniel may have lived until 530 B.C.
- Little is known of Daniel's family background.
- Daniel was born into the royal family and was of noble birth (Daniel 1:3,6).
- He was physically attractive and mentally sharp (Daniel 1:4).
- From the testimony of Ezekiel, he was known for his righteousness (Ezekiel 14:14,20) and his wisdom (Ezekiel 28:3).
- The book was probably completed in the last 10 years of his life.
- The prophet Daniel is mentioned by Jesus (Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14).

V. The Purpose of the Book

- The book is the record of the life and prophetic revelations given to Daniel.

The Prophecy Series: The Book of Daniel

- The book was written during the dark hour of the Babylonian captivity.
- There was a need for a new testimony concerning the mighty and providential power of God.
- It is not the purpose of the book to give a detailed account of Daniel's life.
- It is a revelation of God's program which culminates in the second coming of Jesus.
- The book emphasizes God's sovereign authority over Gentile nations.
- The book was also written to outline graphically the prophetic period known as "the times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24).
- The Book of Daniel marks the course of Gentile history through that extended period in which Israel was and is being disciplined by Gentiles.
- The Book reveals Israel's future deliverance and the blessings she will enjoy in the coming Millennial Age.

VI. A Basic Outline Of The Book

A. Historical Record (Daniel 1-6)

B. Prophetic Visions (Daniel 7-12)

The Structure of the Book of Daniel

Chapter	Historical Record						Prophetic Visions					
	The Preparation of Daniel and His Friends	Nebuchadnezzar's First Dream	The Golden Image	Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream	The Writing on the Wall	Daniel's Faithfulness	The Dream of the Four Beasts	The Ram & The Goat	The Seventy Sevens	The Heavenly Messenger	The Final Vision	Sealing of the Prophecy
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	