Daniel

Introduction

While Ezekiel served as God's prophet to the Jews in exile, Daniel served as God's ambassador to the king's court in Babylon. Daniel was a bright and bold young man, proving his heart's commitment to God despite his potentially compromising position in life. His name literally means "God is Judge." How fitting that God would place such a man of Daniel's character and stature at the right hand of power in the seemingly invincible empire of Babylon!

The book of Daniel is the Old Testament apocalypse, even as the book of Revelation is the apocalypse of the New Testament. For this reason, many have tried to discredit the content and date of Daniel's writings. Yet, his message has been proven and archeological evidence has validated the authenticity of this work in conjunction with the life and ministry of Daniel.

In the book of Daniel, the word, *vision*, appears 32 times, thus revealing many of the things to come. It is said of Daniel that "his vision sweeps the entire course of the Gentile world rule to its end and on to the Messianic kingdom of our Lord." Thus, Daniel saw from his day forward, beyond the present time in which we live, even to the edge of eternity when Jesus Christ will rule and reign in His glory.

Great are the prophesies and testimonies of Daniel for our day! We observe many practical truths for living through the proven character of Daniel in some of the testing times of life. Also, we gain a sense of perspective for the coming days in order that we may be prepared and secured as they approach. Daniel's writing is both fascinating and encouraging. Together, we will explore his riches in this week's study.

General Outline

- I. Daniel and His Personal Friends (1–6) (Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego)
 - A. The Challenge of the Believer's Walk (1) (The matter of the Kings meat)
 - B. The Challenge of the Believer's Witness (2) (The dilemma of the King's dream)
 - C. The Challenge of the Believer's Worship (3) (The implications of the King's image)
 - D. The Challenge of the Believer's Warfare (6) (The lesson of the King's lions)

- II. Daniel and His People's Future (7-12)
 - A. The Character of the Future (7-8)
 - B. The Control of the Future (9–10)
 - C. The Course of the Future (11)
 - D. The Climax of the Future (12)
 - 1. Turmoil is seen (12:1-4)
 - 2. Tribulation is sure (12:5-7)
 - 3. Truth is sealed (12:8-10)
 - 4. Times are set (12:11-13)

Some excerpts taken from J. Phillips

Observations

The key events of Daniel include his interpretive vision of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the prophesy of 70 weeks which foretell the advent of Christ and the tribulation of the last times.

The Seventy Weeks of Daniel

Antichrist Defeated by Christ			A.D. ?
	<u>¥</u>	(3 1/2 Years) (3 1/2 Years)	
Antichrist Breaks the Covenant	1Week	/2 Years) (A.D. ?
Antichrist Makes a Covenant with Israel		(3.1	A.D. ?
alem the ple syed	War and Desolation to the End		70
Jerusalem and the Temple Destroyed	Christ Cut Off After the 69th Week		3 A.D. 70
Christ's Triumphal Entry	† 5 ≨		A.D. 32 / 33
pe	62 Weeks	(434 Years)	
Restoration Completed	eks	ears)	396 B.C.
Artaxerxes l's Decree to Restore Jerusalem	7 Weeks	(49 Years)	445 / 444 B.C.

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