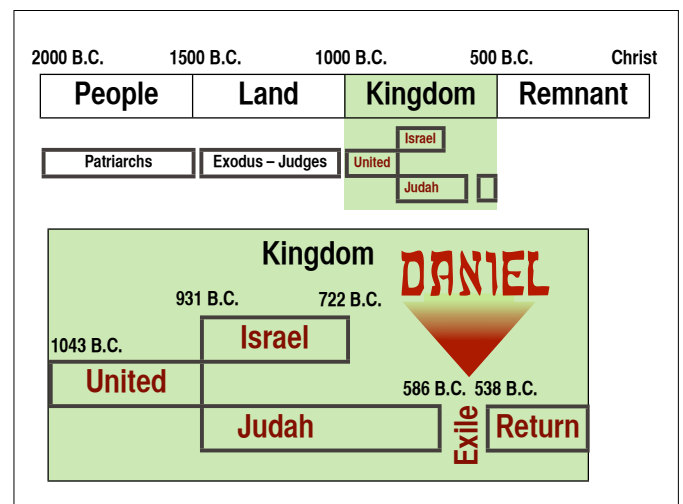
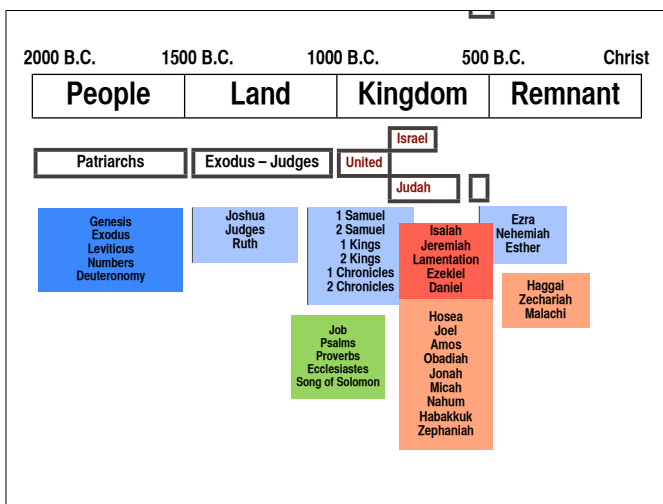


***If God is really there
why is this world,
including His
people, in
such a
mess?***



History	Poetry	Prophecy
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentation Ezekiel DANIEL
Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles	OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS	Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah
Ezra Nehemiah Esther		Haggai Zechariah Malachi



The uniqueness of the book of Daniel

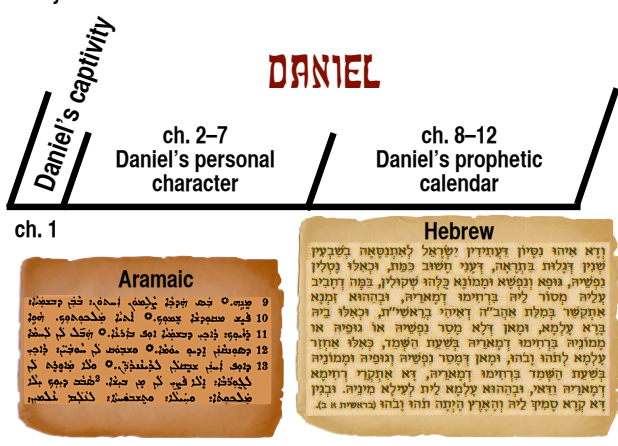
- A. The story of Daniel's life is intriguing.
- B. The prophetic predictions are amazing.
- C. The date and author are perplexing.
- D. The perspective is far reaching.

Why study the book of Daniel

- A. It is a story for our times.
- B. It leads us into the world of Biblical prophecy.
- C. It is an important link to understanding the N.T. message.
- D. It is a continuation in our study of character.

Babylonia / Persia

605-536 B.C.



DANIEL 1

vs. 1-7

vs. 8-21

The setting

1. Jehoiakim was an evil ruler of Judah
2. Judah was invaded and deported to Babylon in 605 BC
2. The captivity would last 70 years
3. Daniel was one of the captives to the area of Babel

Daniel's favor

Daniel 1

"¹ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² **The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand**, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar (**regional name for Babylon**), to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.

³ Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles, ⁴ **youths** in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every *branch of* wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and **he ordered him** to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans."



Nebuchadnezzar the Great



- ✓ Among the most important people in ancient history.
- ✓ His city with its hanging gardens was one of the ancient wonders of the world.
- ✓ He was Saddam Hussein's idol
- ✓ He was in the class of Herod the Great & Alexander the Great.



Daniel was one of God's chosen people - Israel.

By the sovereign grace of God Daniel was carried away to a pagan culture.

Daniel models for us how a relationship with God shapes character and wisdom for adverse circumstances.

Like Daniel, Christians have dual citizenship

1 Peter 1

“¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as **aliens**, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are **chosen** ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the **sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ** and be sprinkled with His blood: May **grace and peace be yours** in the fullest measure.”

Recognize God's hand

- God's hand (not Satan's) was responsible for Israel's captivity to a pagan nation.
- This was foreseen by Hebrew prophets.

Jeremiah 20:4

“So I will give over all Judah to the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will carry them away as exiles to Babylon and will slay them with the sword.”



Implications

- What does this suggest about the present state of Israel's occupation of Palestine?

Deuteronomy 30

“² and you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons,

³ then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. ⁴ If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. ⁵ The Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.”

Don't rush to judgment with respect to recognizing the hand of God (or Satan) in the events of history.

Remember the Cross looked like Satan's victory but was really God's.

Daniel 1

“⁵ The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service. ⁶ Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷ Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned the name **Belteshazzar**, to Hananiah **Shadrach**, to Mishael **Meshach** and to Azariah **Abed-nego**.”

Recognize God's hand

- God's hand (not Satan's) puts Daniel into a pagan environment, with a pagan name at a vulnerable age until he dies.

The new names assigned them all included or referred to various Babylonian gods:
Bel, **Aku**, and **Nego** (a possible variant of Nebo).

Belteshazzar means "Bel's prince,"

Shadrach may mean "command of Aku," and

Abednego most likely means "servant of Nebo."

Recognize God's hand

- God's hand (not Satan's) puts Daniel into a pagan environment, with a pagan name at a vulnerable age until he dies.
- Daniel may have been made a eunuch while in captivity, which would deprive him of official leadership in Israel.
- The book of Daniel addresses a time when God's people are captive & their God is disgraced **yet in control**.

Three spiritual experiences



Daniel's world is ours

**Like Daniel
we are alien ambassadors
in a hostile land
full of stumbling blocks
to our faith and hope.**

1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it."

Warren W. Wiersbe



"Faith is not believing in spite of evidence—that's superstition—but obeying in spite of consequences."