

# *DANIEL: A Prophet For Our Time*

*Studies in the Book of Daniel*

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## *An Overview of Daniel*

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### *The Benefits of Studying Daniel in Our Day*

#### **I. *The Background of the Book of Daniel***

- A. *Daniel wrote in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC (~586--~512)*
- B. *He is one of two Exilic prophets, Ezekiel being the other one; there were no other prophets to Judah during the period of the Babylonian captivity*
- C. *Daniel wrote his prophetic message & narrative in two languages: Hebrew & Aramaic*
- D. *His authorship and time of writing is greatly contested by liberal scholars which:*
  - 1. *reduces the book to a fraud*
  - 2. *destroys the prophetic message intended for all time*
  - 3. *any cursory reading of the person and prophecy of Daniel in the web literature will include all sorts of fallacies from a late pseudonymous author in the post Maccabean period a hundred or so years from the birth of Jesus to the idea that he is an entirely fictitious person who never existed and all the narratives are fables*
- E. *However, the Jews accepted Daniel as canonical without question and Jesus alluded to Himself from Daniel's prophecies. There was no question in the time of Christ as to the book's authenticity*

#### **II. *The Narrative and Prophecies of Daniel***

- A. *Daniel tells the story of what captivity was like for young men with potential and how the kingdom was organized in Babylon*
- B. *Daniel and his three friends figure prominently in the book, along with the kings he served*
- C. *The major narratives of the book tell the stories of remaining faithful in a hostile environment*
- D. *The Prophecies are primarily dream interpretations:*
  - 1. *Daniel is either interpreting the unusual dreams of the kings under whom he serves (Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar of the Neo-Babylonian Empire) (Cyrus of the Persian Empire)*
  - 2. *Or, he is experiencing dreams and visions himself which causes him to seek God for the meaning*

#### **III. *Why Is Daniel an Important Book for Us to Study?***

- A. *The lives and choices of Daniel and his friends inspire courage and faith in difficult circumstances*
- B. *There is much to learn from Daniel about:*
  - 1. *Personal care*
  - 2. *Prayer life and habit*
  - 3. *Being faithful to God while serving unbelieving (pagan) leaders*
- C. *It is a Prophetic Book for our times and a companion volume to Revelation*
  - 1. *Daniel's prophecies and dream interpretations give us confidence in our future*
  - 2. *His prophecies assure us of the coming reign of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings*
  - 3. *He gives us insight into our future in the Kingdom which is found nowhere else in Scripture*