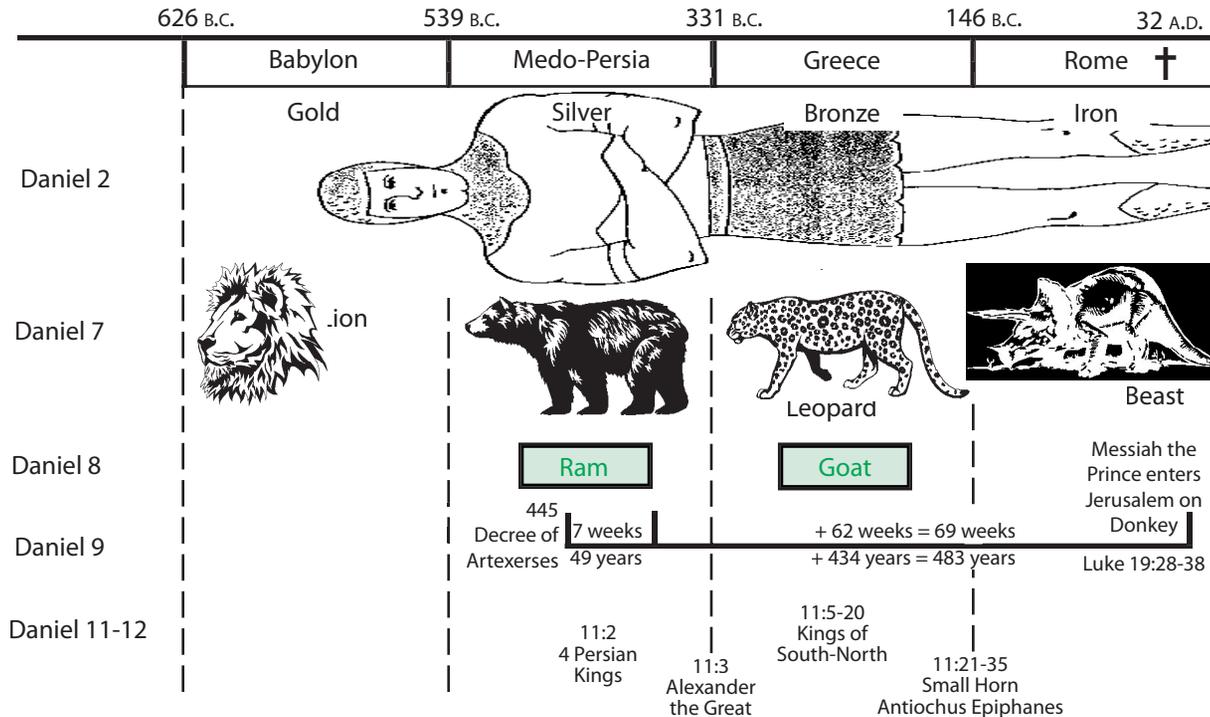


The Prophecy of Daniel



In a sense, there are two books in the book of Daniel. Weaved into the unfolding story of Daniel's life is the revelation of fantastic prophecy. Unlike the other major prophets, Daniel reveals the sequence of future events in the order in which they will occur. Daniel's prophecies are so accurate that liberals claimed the book was actually written after Christ. That claim was silenced by the Dead Sea Scrolls, which confirmed a 250 B.C. copy of Daniel. But Daniel's predictions do not end here. Daniel also predicts a future seven-year tribulation, with the last three and one-half years being an abomination of desolation (9:27). Jesus confirmed that this is what precedes His Second Coming (Matthew 24:15). But Daniel also predicts a future kingdom of the Messiah on earth (Daniel 2:44-45, 7:27).

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BOOK PANORAMA

brochures are designed to provide an introduction and overview of a book of the Bible, to help you hear the word, understand it and bear fruit (Matthew 13:23). This material is intentionally not copyrighted. Please feel free to use any of it for any purpose at any time.

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BOOK PANORAMA

Daniel

By Dr. David A. DeWitt and Ellen J. DeWitt

The Man Daniel

Daniel is one of the few people of the Bible of whom no sin is mentioned, although he was a sinner and he saw himself as a sinner (Daniel 9:20). As a teenager (probably around 16), he was taken to Babylon as part of Nebuchadnezzar's captivity of the Jews. He never married (as far as we know), and he never returned to the land of Judah. Daniel was from the tribe of Judah (1:6), possibly of the lineage of David (1:3). He was physically attractive, intelligent, educated, and wise (1:4). He was a contemporary of Ezekiel, who was also taken into captivity to Babylon as a young man. He referred to Daniel as righteous (Ezekiel 14:14) and wise (Ezekiel 28:3). But while Ezekiel lived among the Jewish people, Daniel was recruited to serve the king. He served at least three kings and was promoted over his contemporaries. He saw the fall of Babylon and the rise of the Medo-Persian empire. He was a man of prayer and a student of Scripture (Daniel 9:2-3). But he also had "skill in all literature and wisdom" (1:17), as well as both the Hebrew and Babylonian languages.

Daniel wrote the book that bears his name (12:4, Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14). He wrote it using two languages: Hebrew (Daniel 1:1-2:4a and chapters 8-12) and Aramaic (2:4b-chapter 7).

Daniel was not listed as a prophecy book. Actually, Daniel was not considered to be a prophet, nor called a prophet, during his lifetime. His book was considered part of the Old Testament Scripture but listed among the sacred “writings” not prophecy.

The book of Daniel demonstrates that it is possible to live consistently for God in the midst of a godless society ruled by pagans. The book shows us that such a life is possible because God is in control. His sovereign hand is over every nation, and His lovingkindness singles out those who seek Him.

The Times of Daniel

Babylon had a long-term hatred for Egypt. Since the fall of Assyria, Babylon and Egypt were the two mega-empires, each located at the opposite end of the crescent-shaped western world.

In May-June of 605 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar led the Babylonian army against Egypt and defeated them. Next, he began expanding his territories by conquering Palestine and Syria. Then his father died, and he returned to Babylon to receive the crown. But in September, he returned to attack Jerusalem. That is when Daniel and his contemporaries were taken to Babylon. In 597, Nebuchadnezzar returned to Judah again in response to Jehoiachin’s rebellion and took 10,000 captives, including Ezekiel. Nebuchadnezzar also returned in 588. He destroyed Jerusalem, killed most of the remaining Jews, and destroyed the temple in 586 (2 Kings 24 and 25, 2 Chronicles 36, Jeremiah 34, 39, and 52).

The 70 years of the Babylonian captivity saw many cultural changes for the Jews. It was here they adopted the Aramaic language and developed the synagogue as a place of worship, education, and center of their society.

Theme of Daniel

— The sovereignty of God over ungodly societies allows believers to live for God within those societies

