

# Daniel



## Lesson 1-Introduction to the Old Testament and Daniel *Focus: Overview*

- ❖ **Introduction to this class, each other, and the Bible's we'll be using.**
- ❖ **A few thoughts on Daniel**
  - Daniel is quite a pivotal and important book in the Bible.
  - The study of its prophecies shook the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Christian world and caused one of the greatest revivals in recent times!
  - Daniel contains **both stories** of things which happened to Daniel and other Jews living in the time of Ancient Babylon, **and also prophecies** of future events. *There are 4 major prophecy timelines given in Daniel. There is one major "time prophecy" surrounding the life and work of the Messiah, and three other prophetic time periods which are independent, yet related to that one.*
  - The **prophecies of Daniel foretell** the rise and fall of certain major world Empires affecting God's people **from the time of Ancient Babylon (605 BC) to the return of Jesus Christ**—the "2<sup>nd</sup> Coming" which Christians are waiting for today!
- ❖ **How does Daniel fit into the framework of the Old Testament Writings? (O.T. Overview)**
  - **Genesis**—Records the Creation, Noah and the World-wide Flood, the Tower of Babel. Then, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons, including Joseph, who went into Egypt during a time of famine. They later became slaves there for nearly **four hundred** years (prophesied to Abraham in **Genesis 15:13**). **Moses** came along by God's hand to deliver them and to give Israel the Law and Covenant at Mount Sinai.
  - **Genesis to Deuteronomy** record all the history during the time of Moses and before. Moses is also credited with writing or obtaining **Job** (considered the oldest book in the Bible).
  - **Joshua** was the next leader in Israel after Moses (his book comes next). **Judges and Ruth** record Israel's history after the time of Joshua—during these days **Judges** were appointed by God to rule in the land of Israel.
  - **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles** record the **History of the Kings in Israel**. *1 Samuel 8:6-9 records the time when Israel requested for God to give them a king. The first three kings in Israel were Saul, then David, and then Solomon (David's son). The Reign of Saul turned out to be a disaster—he completely abandoned God and died in a battle with his son Jonathon. David was mostly a great king—He wrote most of the Psalms which are recorded as a book in the Bible. Solomon's reign was the most glorious period of Israel's History!! He wrote Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon (Song of Songs). Even the Queen of Sheba came to visit king Solomon during this time and to hear his great wisdom which God had given him. The 1<sup>st</sup> and greatest Jewish Temple was built during Solomon's reign.*
  - *However, Solomon did not remain entirely faithful to God either (ref. 1 Kings 11:1-6). After the Death of Solomon (ref. 1 Kings 11:41-43), many kings are listed as rising up in Israel's History—some were godly (followed God), some were evil and corrupt!—They brought much sin and evil into Israel (ref. 1 Kings 13:33; 14:9, sins of Jeroboam; king Ahab, 1 Kings 16:33; and many others*

brought evil into Israel.) **After Solomon, Israel split into two kingdoms—Israel and Judea.** This was because of Solomon's tyrannical son, Rehoboam, who burdened the people of Israel and caused a political uprising!

- **God sent prophets to rebuke His nation and bring them to repentance from their sinful ways** (like Elijah, Elisha, and others!)
- ❖ **Israel was heading towards their largest Crisis of all times during the reign of her final kings**
  - The **major prophets** and many other **minor prophets** were sent to Israel, telling them to repent. FINALLY, God said, that's enough!! "I'm sending you into Captivity for 70 years." **Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel were sent to prophecy against Jerusalem and to tell them of their sure destruction at the hand of God through the pagan nation of Babylon!!**
  - **Ezekiel prophesied** immediately preceding, going into, and during the Babylonian Captivity! People were taken into captivity under several different waves of attacks. Ezekiel was raised up among the captives of Babylon (Ezekiel 1:1-3), while Jeremiah was prophesying back in the land of Israel (Jeremiah 1:1-5). **Jeremiah** also wrote the book of **Lamentations** expressing his sorrow over seeing the destruction of Israel!
  - **THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY drew to a close the period of the Kings reigning over Israel as a self-governing, independent nation (2 Kings 25:21; 2 Chronicles 36:16,18-21)**
  - **DANIEL was written during the Captivity period** by the prophet Daniel himself. Daniel was even able to read from Jeremiah's prophesies which made it into Babylon (Dan.9:2).
  - **Minor prophets** writing before the captivity are **Hosea** (Hos.1:1), **Joel** who wrote during the time of king Joash (835-796BC), **Amos** who came just before Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1; Amos 1:1), **Obadiah** and **Jonah** (time of the Philistines, King Jehoram of Israel, and the Assyrian Empire, approx 800s BC), **Micah** who prophesied in the days just before Jeremiah (Jer. 26:18; Micah 1:1), **Nahum** who prophesied of the Assyrian city of Ninevah being destroyed by ancient Babylon, **Habakkuk** who prophesied in the very last hours of the Kings of Judah, just prior to the Babylonian Captivity and concerning it. **Zephaniah** also prophesied of the coming destruction by Babylon (Zeph. 1:1-3).
- ❖ **Prophets and Reformers after the Captivity**
  - **Ezra and Nehemiah record the return of the Jews to Jerusalem** during the time of the Persian Empire and tell of the Reforms taking place, and the rebuilding of the city and it's Temple. The book of **Esther** was also written around or just after this time in history (Esther 1:1-3)
  - **Haggai** was a prophet during the time of Persia and the reconstruction of Israel. He was sent to bolster up the work of God in rebuilding Jerusalem. (Hag. 1:1)
  - **Zechariah** was also a prophet during the time of Persia (Zech. 1:1). His visions came just two months after the last of Haggai's visions (Hag. 2:10; Zech. 1:7).
  - **Malachi** was the last of the Old Testament prophets to write. After his writings, the Hebrew Scriptures remain silent for 400 years, until the time of Jesus Christ (Then you have the New Testament Writings which start with Matthew).
- ❖ **This gives us a framework for understanding the Biblical context of Daniel and the Old Testament history of the Jewish nation.**

*Question (s) for the Heart:*

Are you willing to study the Bible to learn lessons that will be helpful for your life? \_\_\_\_\_