

VIA EMMAUS: A CHRIST-CENTERED WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

Daniel: Keep the Faith! The Sovereign LORD Reigns In History. (31)

INTRODUCING DANIEL

Background Daniel exiled in 605 BC (1:1), was from the tribe of Judah (1:6), lived his entire life in Babylon
Written to encourage the exiled Jews to remember the sovereign rule of YHWH
God's People were not in God's Place. Therefore, God's Blessed Rule was in question.

Dates Sixth Century during the Babylonian Captivity – *Range from 605 BC (1:1) to 536 BC (10:1)*
Second Century: Many critical scholars date Daniel in the Second Century BC,
(1) The detailed history – *Chapter 11 in particular; also must assume some errors*
(2) Different spelling of Daniel from Ezekiel – *Maybe even a different Daniel*
(3) Daniel is not grouped with the other prophets – *It is grouped in the Writings*

Sixth Century: Reasons to conclude a 6th Century dating
(1) Popularity among the Essenes (think: Dead Sea Scrolls) & 1 Maccabees quotes it
(2) Fourth kingdom in chapters 2 and 7 is likely Rome – *predictive in 6th or 2nd Century*
(3) Belshazzar (ch. 6) was proven to be a historical figure (Nabodinus Cylinder)
(4) The kings of Babylon are presented in a positive light – *incongruent with 2nd Century*
Dating matters because it effects the message: History or Theology?

Unity

Three Languages = One Book

Hebrew Chapters 1, 8-12: the language of the Hebrews; used in apocalyptic section
Aramaic Chapters 2-7: the language of Babylon; used in the historical section
Greek Used in sporadic places; loan words

Two Sections = One Book

1 Introduction to the whole book

2-7¹ Court Stories – *Case histories of God's sovereign rule over enemy kings*

A Dream statue representing four kingdoms (2)

B Worship the golden statue or perish in a pit (3)

C Judgment on Nebuchadnezzar (4)

C' Judgment on Belshazzar (5)

B' Worship Darius or perish in the pit (6)

A' Dream of four beasts representing four kingdoms (7)

7 Transition uniting the history of chapters 2-6 with the universal visions of chapters 8-12

8-12 Apocalyptic visions – *God's sovereign rule over history continues in all the earth*

Reading

(1) Apocalyptic Literature uses vivid language -- Force/Feeling is as Important as Facts
Daniel 7:28; 8:27 and Revelation 17:1-6 – *How do you exposit that?*

(2) Apocalyptic Literature uses symbolism extensively
7 churches, 7 spirits, 7 weeks of years; 4 winds, 4 beasts,

(3) Apocalyptic Literature is a gateway into the unseen world

¹Chapters 2-7 form a chiasmus. Figure taken from George Schwab, *The Gospel According to Daniel: Hope in the Midst of a Hostile World* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R, 2006), 4.

THE OUTLINE OF DANIEL

- 1 **Prologue – *The Wisdom of God is Greater than the Wisdom of Man***
1:4, 8ff Wisdom Literature – ‘*wisdom...knowledge...understanding*’ – Competing Wisdom
1:9, 17, 20 The message is not be like these young men... trust in a God like YHWH
God will reverse the outward circumstances to vindicate his saints
- 2 **Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream**
2:1-13 An Impossible Task
2:14-45 God reveals the dream to Daniel (v. 28, 45)– *Statute with Four Metals*
2:46-49 Glory to God of Israel – *who alone is able to give revelation*
The enduring Kingdom (2:34-35, 44-45)
- 3 **Nebuchadnezzar’s Great Statute – *4 Men in the Fire***
3:16-18 Faith in the Furnance (cf. 1 Peter 4:12-19)
3:24-25 Who is in the flames? (cf. Daniel 7:13-14; Isa 43:2; Ezek 1:26-28; Rev 1)
3:28-30 Glory to the God of Israel – *who alone is able to save from the fire*
- 4 **Nebuchadnezzar’s Kingdom Ripped Away and Returned**
4:1-3; 34-36 Nebuchadnezzar gives glory to God – *He alone is powerful*
4:10-12 The image of the tree represents his kingdom (cf. Gen 11:1ff; Matt 13:31-32)
4:28-33 The pride of humanity (cf. Isa 14; Ezek 28) leads to Nebuchadnezzar’s downfall
The kingdom of God cannot co-exist with hubris; God is almighty
- 5 **Belshazzar’s Kingdom Ripped Away**
5:1-4 Belshazzar’s drunken, idol feast
5:17-28 Belshazzar’s judgment is based upon his knowledge of God
- 6 **Darius’s Edict – *Daniel in the Lion’s Den***
6:1-9 Seed Warfare – *The method of Daniel’s opponents is deceitful and scheming*
6:10-11 Daniel boldly prayed without alteration to his
6:12ff The rest of the story... plays out as a typological picture of the cross / resurrection
Miraculous Reversals... just man, abused law, death, raised, enemies destroyed
- 7 **Vision of the Four Great Beasts – *The Son of Man will Rule Over Them All***
7:13-14 Most Striking Image
7:17-18 Central Message of the Book of Daniel
7:25-27 Preparing the Way for Christ as Crucified & Risen Messiah (cf. Mark 9:31)
- 8 **The Ram, The Goat, and the Little Horn**
Medo-Persia... Greece... Antiochus... *But there is more than simply equating beasts with kingdoms... this is the world at war... a way after the flesh that will one day end*
- 9 **Daniel’s Prayer – Like Nehemiah 1 / Ezra 9... confession and covenantal/redemptive themes**
Gabriel’s Interpretation – Explains the 70 weeks of Jeremiah 29 (see handout)
- 10-12 **Heaven and Earth – *God’s Reign On Earth As It Is In Heaven***
War in Heaven (10) – *Who is Michael? The Angel of the Lord? (cf. Ezek 1:26-28; Rev 12:7-11)*
War on Earth (11:1-35) – *A detailed history of Second Temple Judaism under Antiochus*
War Until the End (11:36-45) – *Precursor to the Antichrist; unrivaled hubris (12:37)*
Resolution in the End (12) – *The Wise Vindicated and the Unwise Vanquished (12:1-4, 10-11)*

	2	7	8	9	10-12
Babylon	Golden Head	Winged Lion			
Medo-Persia	Silver Chest	Bear on its side	Ram	Decree to rebuild; 7 sevens; Anointed One	4 Kings
Greece	Bronze Belly	Leopard with 4 Wings & Heads	Goat		Mighty King & Successors
Antiochus			Little Horn		King of the North
Rome	Iron Legs	Dreadful Beast		62 Sevens	
Last Evil King		Little Horn		1 Seven	Willful King
Final Kingdom	Rock	Son of Man		The End	Resurrection Felicity

(Taken from Schwab, *The Gospel According to Daniel*, 147)

God's people will be subjected to hostile great powers. This oppression provides the opportunity for the wisdom of the saints to be displayed, while others seek it but cannot find it, like the Chaldean's in Nebuchadnezzar's court, until the Great Reversal when the saints will rise from the dead to receive God's glory and imaging him in wisdom, in rule, and in judgment. Michael watches over God's people until the resurrection. Thus the fate of the one like a son of man, who receives the kingdom, and the fate of the saints of the Most High, who are persecuted, die, and are resurrected, are on and the same. As it is for them, so it is for him; as it is for him, so it is for them (170).