

An Introduction to the Book of Daniel
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I. Author

A. The book of Daniel is named after its author—Daniel wrote this prophetic book.

i. Matt 24:15: _____ says it was spoken by “the prophet Daniel.”

B. Who was Daniel?

i. He was a Jewish _____, along with Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah.

ii. He was a statesman in a foreign land, much like _____ in Egypt.

II. Language

A. There are _____ biblical languages: Hebrew, _____, and Greek.

i. Ezra has 2 whole chapters & 2 partial chapters written in _____.

ii. Daniel has 5 whole chapters & 1 partial chapter written in _____.

B. Hebrew: Daniel 1:1–2:3 & 8:1–12:13; _____: Daniel 2:4–7:28.

i. Why is Daniel a bilingual book?

ii. It makes us experience the foreign environment of Babylon, by recording it in a foreign language.

III. Date

A. We believe that Daniel wrote this book at some point in the _____ BC.

B. But when you turn to modern biblical scholars, things get more complicated.

i. The modern biblical academy is untethered from the _____.

ii. They claim the form of _____ in Daniel is too late, doesn't fit 6th century.

iii. They don't believe Daniel could have prophesied in such detail about the 4 world empires, so it must have been written after the empires rose to power.

iv. There's even debate about which 4 empires Daniel referred to in his prophesy.

1. Traditional view: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, _____.

2. Modern/ critical view: Babylon, Medes, Persia, Greece.

IV. Outline & Structure

A. Daniel has a very sophisticated structure—it contains a series of chiasms.

- i. A chiasm is a _____ order of writing, rather than linear.
- ii. We've already seen one obvious chiasm: Hebrew, _____, Hebrew.
- iii. It also divides topically: historical narrative (1–6) and prophetic visions (7–12).
- iv. **[See the outline at the end of the handout.]**

B. In terms of the chronological order, time _____ in chapter 7.

V. Themes & Applications

- A. The spirit of the antichrist in world empires.
- B. The service of godly saints in world empires.
- C. God's providential care for faithful pilgrims.
- D. The victory of God's kingdom over world empires.

Outline of the Book of Daniel

I. Setting the scene: Daniel and his companions in exile (1:1–2:3) [Hebrew]

II. Faithful Jews in Babylonian exile (2:4– ch. 7) [Aramaic]

A. Vision of four world empires: the statue (2)

B. Faithful witnesses delivered from fire (3)

C. Babylon judged: Nebuchadnezzar's madness (4)

C. Babylon judged: Belshazzar's vision, Medo-Persians invade (5)

B. Faithful witness delivered from lions (6)

A. Vision of four world empires: the beasts (7)

III. Faithful Jews beyond Babylonian exile (8–12) [Hebrew]

A. Vision of world empires: The Rise and Fall of the Greek Empire (8)

B. Faithful saints delivered from sin | Vision of the end: the seventy weeks (9)

A. Vision of world empires: The Rise and Fall of the Greek Empire (10–11)

B. Faithful saints delivered from death | Vision of the end: resurrection & judgment (12)