

Key to DANIEL

1. STATISTICS:

Writer, Daniel (name means "GOD is Judge"), a prince of the Davidic line and a captive from Judea in the first group taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in 606 B.C. (II Kings 24:14). Daniel lived 90 years, 72 of these as a high government official. Key thought, world empires; key verse, 1:20; type of book, personal history - world prophecy; time covered, 72 years (4 dynasties).

2. THEME:

Because he "**purposed in his heart**" GOD exalted him, and as a result of his righteous living he became Prime Minister in Babylon. During this time he received a series of visions depicting the major divisions of world history, particularly as they affect the Jewish nation.

3. OUTLINE:

Historical (1-6)
Prophetic (7-12)

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Two languages used: 2:4-7:28 in Aramaic (similar to ancient Chaldee) written for Gentiles and dealing with world history; the rest of the book in Hebrew for Daniel's people and dealing with GOD's leading and preservation of His own.

First section (1-6), Daniel is spoken of in the third person; in last section (7-12) Daniel himself is narrator.

Daniel was contemporary to leaders at time of exile: Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Jeshua (Ezra 3:2), and Zerubbabel.

Daniel undoubtedly knew of the 70-year exile prophesied by Jeremiah (25:12; 29:10).

Three times called "greatly beloved" (9:23; 10:11, 19), Daniel was courageous, consistent, sincere, diligent, a man of great prayer.

5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

The power of steadfast resolution illustrated in introduction to Daniel's character (king's meat and bowing to image refused).

The "lion's den" experience late in Daniel's life (age 70) spoke of his complete confidence in GOD. It was a rugged test, but how worthwhile (chapter 6).

The testimony of the greatest monarch who ever lived (according to GOD's estimate in 2:37, 38) ought to be required reading for all rulers, both great and small. (See chapter 4).

While all Daniel's prophecies deal with Gentile world empires, the viewpoint is always, as it were, over the shoulder of Daniel's people, the Jewish nation.

The prophecy of Daniel's 70 weeks (Hebrew, "heptads" or sevens) anticipated the two comings of Israel's Messiah. The last "seven" refers to the Great Tribulation period still in the future.

6. INTERESTING FEATURES:

Daniel, not mentioned by name in Hebrews 11, is referred to as one who "**stopped the mouths of lions**" (v. 33).

Ministry of angels (good and bad) suggested in 8:16; 10:13.

Many Bible scholars believe Belshazzar (5:2, 18) was really the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, and was co-ruler with his absent father, Nabonidus.

Cyrus the Persian, who conquered Babylon and later released the Jews, was possibly influenced by the statesman, Daniel, reading the prophecies to him.

7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

First satisfy your heart with the entire trustworthiness of Daniel in the first six chapters. Then, supply yourself with ample time and dependable study helps for the exacting and thrilling experience of understanding the remainder of his book.

~ end of Daniel ~

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