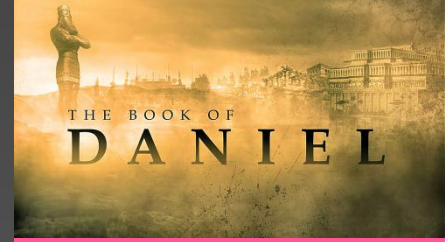


The Book of Daniel

Introduction & Chapter 1

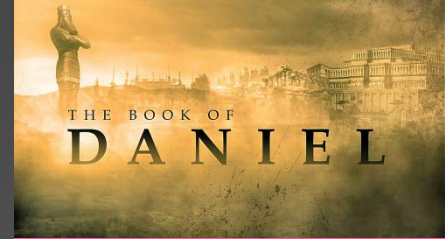


Introduction

“God had allowed the unthinkable to happen. His people were in exile in Babylon. His promises seemed shattered. Was God in control? Was he faithful? Did he still care? One young man, Daniel, affirmed that he did. It was not without struggle, and it cost him to do so. But echoing through the centuries of history, and resounding from the future that was revealed to him, came the proclamation: The Lord is King - even in Babylon!” (The Message of Daniel by Dr Ronald S. Wallace in the Bible Speaks Today Series.)

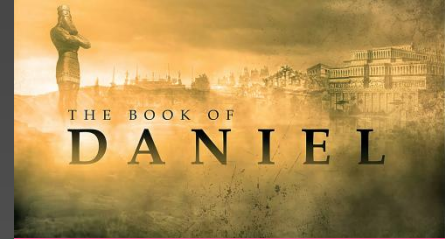


Introduction



Introduction

“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” (Matthew 24:15-16)



Introduction

Daniel (chapters 1-6)

Stories that demonstrate God's protection and Daniel's faithfulness:

Chapter 1: Daniel & his 3 friends in Babylon

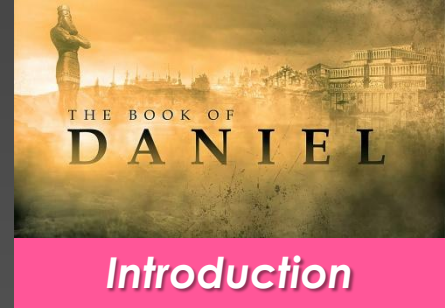
Chapter 2: Nebuchadnezzar's dream

Chapter 3: Image of Gold and the Fiery furnace

Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar's Second dream

Chapter 5: King Belshazzar's Feast & the writing on the wall

Chapter 6: Daniel in the Lion's Den



Daniel (chapters 7-12)

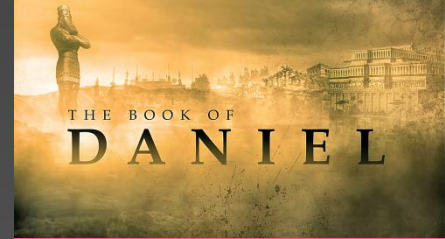
A series of visions reveal God's future plan, culminating in the ultimate victory of God's kingdom over the kingdoms of the world.

Chapter 7: Daniel's dream of Four Beasts

Chapter 8: Vision of a Ram and a Goat

Chapter 9: Daniel's Prayer and the Seventy Years

Chapter 10-12: Final vision of future conflicts between kingdoms and the suffering of God's people, culminating in the resurrection of the dead and the establishment of God's eternal kingdom. *(This vision contains one of the clearest references to resurrection in the Old Testament)*



Introduction

By the way . . .

Chapters 1, 8 -12 are written in Hebrew

Chapters 2 - 7 in Aramaic

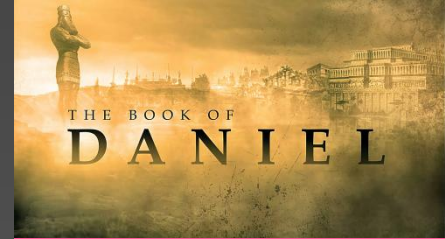
4 Periods of miracles in Biblical History:

The wilderness wanderings (Exodus)

Elijah and Elisha (1 & 2 Kings)

Daniel

Miracles in the New Testament (Gospels & Acts)



THE BOOK OF
DANIEL

Introduction

Key topics in the Book of Daniel

God's Sovereignty over Kingdoms and History

Faithfulness in Exile

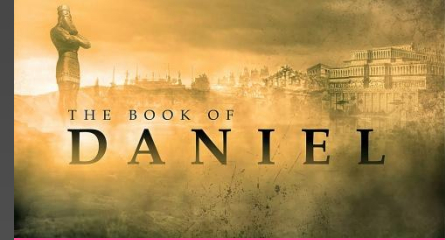
Divine Deliverance

Messianic Prophecy

Apocalyptic Visions and Future Hope

Chapter 1 - Introduction and the training of Daniel in Babylon

Verses 1-7: Historical Background

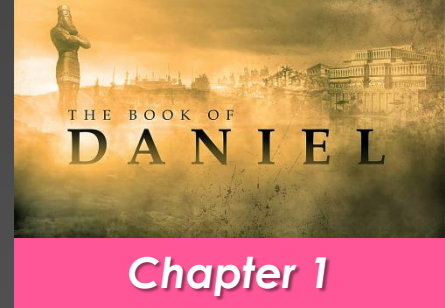


Chapter 1

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

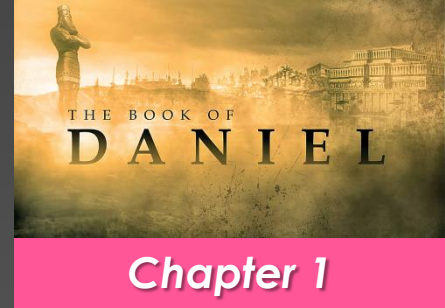
³ Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. ⁵ The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

Chapter 1 - Introduction and the training of Daniel in Babylon



⁶ Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷ The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

Chapter 1 - Introduction and the training of Daniel in Babylon



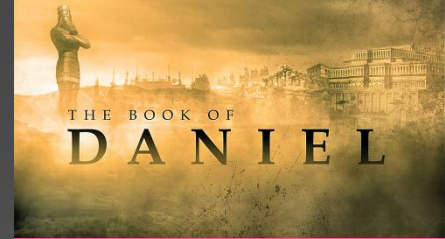
Historical Background

Beginning of 70 years exile and captivity. (Jeremiah 25 & 29)

Reasons:

- (i) Failure to keep sabbath year**
- (ii) Idolatry**

Chapter 1 - Introduction and the training of Daniel in Babylon



Chapter 1

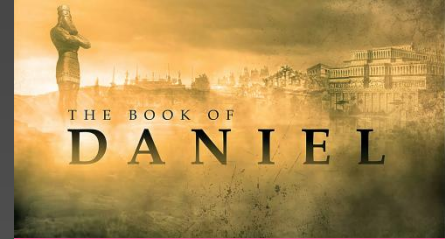
*1st deportation 605 BC includes Daniel, his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Jewish nobility and some temple vessels.
(2 Chronicles 36:6-7)*

*2nd deportation 597 BC - additional elite, greater despoiling of temple.
Ezekiel exiled.
(Jeremiah 52:28–30; 2 Kings 24:10–16)*

*3rd deportation 586 BC - Temple and Jerusalem destroyed. Large
number of captives taken.
(2 Kings 25:1–21)*

4th deportation 581 BC - 745 more taken into exile. (Jeremiah 52:30)

Chapter 1 - Introduction and the training of Daniel in Babylon

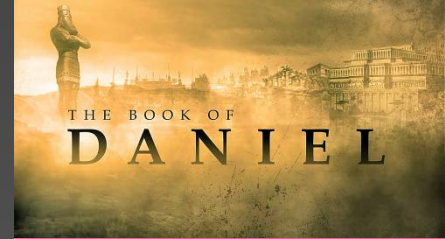


Chapter 1

Note qualifications for selection of Daniel and his three friends:

- ***Royal seed (Daniel)***
- ***Noble class (Three friends)***
- ***All four castrated - no wives to interfere with work***
- ***Youth (15 - 20 yrs)***
- ***Physically unblemished i.e. good looking***

Chapter 1 - Introduction and the training of Daniel in Babylon



Chapter 1

NEW NAMES

DANIEL

"God is (my) judge"

HANANIAH

"Yahweh is gracious"

MISHAEL

"Who is what God is"

AZARIAH

"Yahweh helps"

BELTESHAZZAR

"May Bel protect his life"

SHADRACH

"The command of Aku"

MESHACH

"Who is what Aku is"

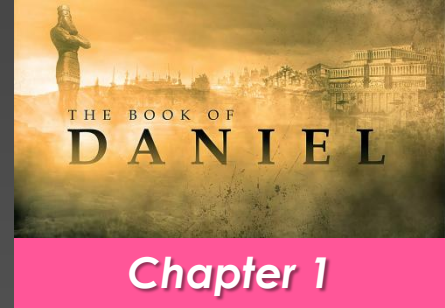
ABEDNEGO

"The servant of Nebo"

Bel, Aku and Nebo were Babylonian gods. Aku was the sun god and Nebo was "the shining one"

Chapter 1 - Introduction and the training of Daniel in Babylon

Verses 8 -16: Testing of Daniel and his three friends

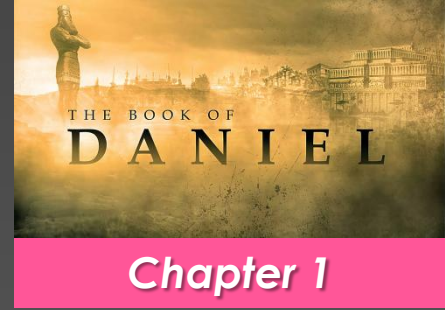


⁸ But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. ⁹ Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, ¹⁰ but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.”

¹¹ Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹² “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” ¹⁴ So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

Chapter 1 - Introduction and the training of Daniel in Babylon

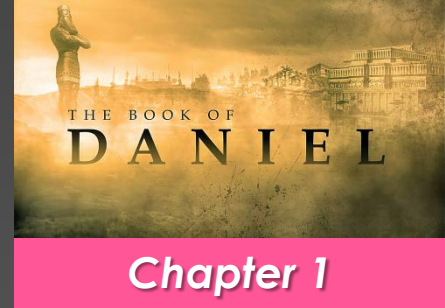
Verses 8 -16: Testing of Daniel and his three friends



¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶ So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

Chapter 1 - Introduction and the training of Daniel in Babylon

Verses 17 - 20: Blessing of the four friends and Appointment to the Kings Service



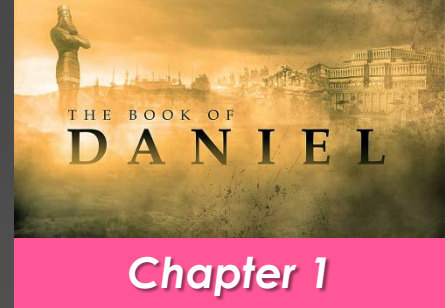
¹⁷ To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

¹⁸ At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. ²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom.

²¹ And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Chapter 1 - Introduction and the training of Daniel in Babylon

Verses 17 - 20: Blessing of the four friends and Appointment to the Kings Service

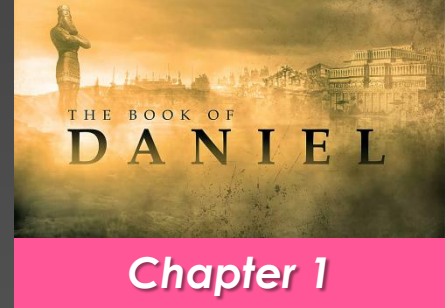


“Nebuchadnezzar himself, in every thought and whim of his mind, and in every plan and decree of his counsel, was closely and tightly under the control of the Lord.”

(The Message of Daniel by Dr Ronald S. Wallace in the Bible Speaks Today Series.)

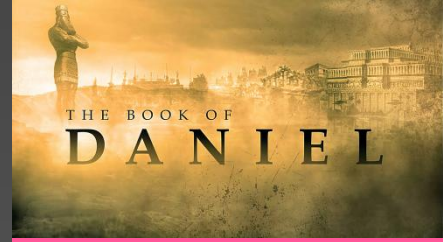
Chapter 1 - Introduction and the training of Daniel in Babylon

Verses 17 - 20: Blessing of the four friends and Appointment to the Kings Service



“God doesn’t “need” to use any of us, but He wants to use all of us - to our fullest potential. The greatest argument against Christianity is Christians! The world is tired of hearing “Praise the Lord!” they want to see it.”

(Keith Green, Christian Song Writer)

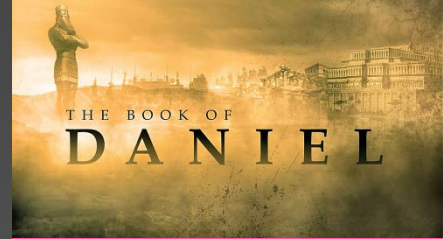


Chapter 1

Final verse in the Book of Daniel

“As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.”

Daniel 12:13



Chapter 1

Final word from John Piper

*It was a great inheritance,
And so it was, and is today,
A legacy to light the way
Where little love is spent on truth
And many fathers fail the youth.
O, God, as we light a candle too,
Ignite a fire for what is true.
May Daniel's flame burn bright today,
And fire us, young and old, to say,
That whether we survive or not
We will do right no matter what.*