



THE BOOK OF DANIEL



I. Objectives of the class

A. *Learn more about God, Romans 15:4*

God is the same today as from the beginning and his attitude toward sin has not changed. Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17. His Law has changed and we are not under patriarchy or the Mosaic dispensation as all men today are under the Law of Christ. John 12:48. If we learn how God dealt with man in the OT, we can understand better how he views things today.

B. *Christian evidences*

The fulfillment of prophecy is one of the proofs that the Bible is God's Word.

The archeologist's spade has dug up many proofs that the bible is accurate to the smallest detail.

C. *Understand the theme and message of the book*

1. The sovereignty of God
2. God's marvelous plan to save man from his sin
 - a) The book demonstrates when the kingdom of prophecy (the New Testament church) would be established.
 - b) God would use the events of history to accomplish His purpose.
 - c) God's plan could not be prevented.
3. The kingdoms of antiquity
4. The fullness of times, Ephesians 1:10; Romans 5:6; Galatians 4:4-5
 - a) The right time to establish the kingdom during the "Pax Romana"; a relative time of peace.
 - b) The right universally accepted language to capture the gospel in written form.
 - c) Understand what each successive kingdom (beginning with Babylon) contributed to the establishment of the Kingdom of God.
5. To strengthen and comfort the saints
 - a) To comfort the faithful Jews that were about to go through very troubled times.
 - b) To show God's omnipotence and omniscience by accomplishing His will using wicked men (providence).
 - c) To show the greatness of God's love for those that are faithful to him by preserving them in the darkest of times.



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D. False doctrines

Is this Pre-Millennial doctrine taught in this book as so many in the denominational word teach today?

Is “Realized Eschatology”, “AD 70 Theology”, “Max King doctrine” taught in this book?

E. Make personal application

II. Authenticity of Daniel

This is not intended to be a comprehensive cataloging of the charges that critics have logged against the authenticity of the book. That is not to say that such a study is not profitable but I am not qualified to present the charges and answers to them and also it would not be appropriate for a Bible class such as this. A study of that type is very tedious and much extra-Biblical materials would need to be pored over.

The critics must be answered however, and if you are inclined to defend God’s Word against such attacks, I would encourage you to engage in academic studies as well as Biblical studies so that you might aptly defend against such biased attacks.

This section will give a brief look at some of the critic’s charges with the intent of strengthening the student’s faith in God’s inerrant Word.

A. The critics charges

1. The book was written by a person in the second century B.C. The basis for disclaiming that Daniel was the writer of the book that bears his name is simple. Predictive prophecy is impossible. The writer of the book was flawlessly accurate in the historical predictions. Therefore, someone wrote the book after the events were completed.
2. The writer made mistakes and fabricated some of the personalities like King Belshazzar and Darius the Mede.
3. There are Persian and Greek words used in the text. The writer must have lived during the time of the Greek influence in order to have used these words.

B. The critics answered

1. The Qumran community (all Jewish scholars) believed that Daniel was a prophet and it is difficult to believe that a people so well versed in the ancient scriptures could be so duped as to accept a book that was a forgery.



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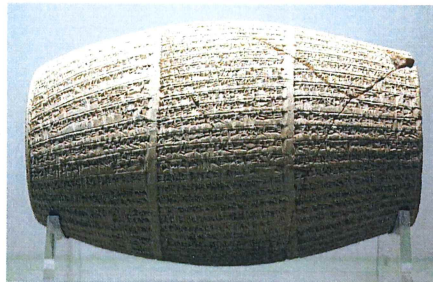


2. Qumran Caves Scrolls (Dead Sea Scrolls) discovered between 1946 and 1956 in eleven caves are a collection of some 981 different texts. The texts of the book of Daniel are significant because they predate the time alleged by the critics.



Cave 11

3. The Nabonidus Cylinder (in the British Museum) depicts Belshazzar exactly as Daniel had written and so answers the charge regarding Belshazzar.



Nabonidus Cylinder

In the matter of Darius the Mede, there is no archeological evidence at this time to confirm his place in history (at least by that name) but that is not sufficient reason to deny his existence. There is precious little archaeological data regarding this period of history and for the critic to base an argument on something that has not yet been found is the height of folly. The Bible has been proven accurate time and time again and should be given the benefit of the doubt. Christians however wait in quiet confidence for the archeologist's spade to uncover evidence once again.

4. The matter of Persian words being in the text is a matter of common sense. As we see in the first chapter, verse 21, Daniel wrote at least some of the book as late as the Persian conquest. It is not strange that he would employ Persian words.

In the matter of The Greek words, (only three are used and they are instruments of music) Greek slaves were taken by Sargon king of Assyria (722-705 BC). Nebuchadnezzar used Ionian carpenters and shipbuilders as well as musicians from Askelon (a port city and one of the five chief cities of the Philistines) and elsewhere. It is not strange to think that Greek instruments of music could have used in Babylon during the time period under consideration.



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C. More important issues concerning the authorship of the book

1. Ezekiel speaks of him as a righteous man. Ezekiel 14: 14 & 20
2. Ezekiel also speaks of him as a wise man. Ezekiel 28: 3
3. And lastly but most importantly, our Lord refers to Daniel as a prophet. Matthew 24: 15 & Mark 13: 14.
4. Because of all of this we can be certain of the authorship of the Book of Daniel, the **Holy Spirit**. Daniel was merely the human penman. II Timothy 3: 16 –17; I Corinthians 1: 10 – 13; II Peter 1: 21-22

III. Ways of dividing the book

A. Classic, generally accepted configuration

1. Historical, chapters 1-6
 - a) It must be noted that there are aspects of the prophetic in chapter 2 as well.
2. Prophetic, chapters 7-12

B. Chronological, as proposed by Rex Turner Sr.

Part I - Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4

Part II - Chapters 7, 8, 5 & 6

Part III - Chapters 11, 10, 12 & 9

IV. Background information

A. Kingdom of Israel (Northern ten tribes)

1. Samaria falls in 722 BC to Assyria's King Shalmaneser after a three year siege. II Kings 18: 9–12
2. Peoples from other regions are transplanted into the area of Samaria, thus the start of the NT Samaritans. II Kings 17: 24–28

B. Judah's last kings

1. Hezekiah, reigned for 29 years.
 - a) 7 years after the fall of Samaria the Assyrian King Sannacherib comes against Jerusalem and offends God as recorded in II Kings 18: 33-35. Hezekiah prays for deliverance and that night 185,000 Assyrians are slain by the angel of the Lord. II Kings 19: 35-37
 - b) Good king whom God added 15 years to his life. II Kings 20: 1-8



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- c) Foolishly shows the emissaries of the king of Babylon all his house and is rebuked by Isaiah the prophet. II Kings 20: 12-18
2. Manasseh, son of Hezekiah reigned for 55 years.
 - a) He was an evil king captured by Assyria and taken to Babylon. II Chronicles 33: 9-11
 - b) He humbled himself and prayed and was restored to Jerusalem. He attempted to repair the damage he had done earlier in his reign. II Chronicles 33: 12-17
 - c) It was the wickedness of Manasseh that brought the kingdom of Judah to the point that there was no remedy for God's wrath. II Kings 21: 10-15; II Kings 23: 26-27; II Kings 24: 3-4
3. Amon, son of Manasseh reigned for 2 years.
 - a) Evil king was killed by his own servants. II Kings 22: 19-23
4. Josiah, son of Manasseh reigned for 31 years.
 - a) An unnamed prophet prophesied of his deeds many years before he would be born. I Kings 13: 1-6
 - b) He began to reign when he was 8 years old.
 - c) Brought about great reforms and destroyed the places of idolatry. He defiled the bones of the priests as was prophesied in I Kings 13: 1-6 but he left the bones of the unnamed prophet alone. II Kings 23: 17-18
 - d) Commissioned that the temple be rebuilt that had fallen in disrepair. It was at this time the book of the Law was found in the temple. II Kings 22: 8-13
 - e) God sends word to Josiah through Huldah the prophetess that the kingdom of Judah would be destroyed but not during his lifetime because he was humble before God. II Kings 22: 15-20
 - f) Was slain in the battle with Pharaoh-Necoh as he passed through Judah. II Kings 23: 29-30; II Chronicles 35: 20-27
5. Jehoahaz, son of Josiah reigned for 3 months.
 - a) Evil king was taken captive by Pharaoh-Necoh into Egypt, 608 B. C. and died there. II Kings 23: 31-32
6. Eliakim (Jehoiakim), 2nd son of Josiah reigned for 11 years.
 - a) Evil king was set up as king by Pharaoh-Necoh and made to pay a tribute. His name was changed to Jehoiakim. II Kings 23: 31-37
 - b) Was made a vassal of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.



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- c) He rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar after three years and Nebuchadnezzar came and besieged Jerusalem. II Kings 24:1; II Chronicles 36: 5-8; Daniel 1:1
 - d) He was put in chains but it is not told us why he was not taken to Babylon and allowed to remain in Jerusalem.
 - e) Things of note.
 - (1) This is the 1st siege of Jerusalem. 606-605 BC
 - (2) This is one way (primary) of calculating the 70 years of captivity as prophesied by Jeremiah. II Chronicles 36: 20-21; Ezra 1:1-11. It would be 70 years before the first of the captives would be allowed to return home by the decree of Cyrus.
 - (3) Daniel and his three friends are taken captive.
 - (4) Vessels from the temple were taken at this time. These play a part in Daniel chapter 5.
 - (5) Pharaoh-Necoh is defeated by Nebuchadnezzar in the battle of Carchemish 605BC.
7. Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim reigned for 3 months.
- a) Evil king was taken captive to Babylon. II Chronicles 36: 9-10
 - b) Was shown favor by Evil-merodach king of Babylon in the 37th year of his captivity. II Kings 25: 27-30
 - c) Things of note:
 - (1) This is the 2nd siege of Jerusalem. 597 BC
 - (2) Ezekiel is taken captive.
 - (3) Nebuchadnezzar takes the princes, craftsmen and mighty men of valor away captive to Babylon and leaves only the “poorest sort”. II Kings 24: 14-16
8. Zedekiah (Mattaniah), 3rd son of Josiah reigned for 11 years.
- a) Evil king was set up as king by Nebuchadnezzar.
 - b) Would not humble himself before God and would not listen to Jeremiah the prophet. II Chronicles 36:12
 - c) He rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. II Kings 25: 1
 - d) His sons are killed in front of him, he is blinded and he is then taken captive to Babylon. II Kings 25: 6-7
 - e) Things of note:
 - (1) The King, Priests, and people had sinned until there was no remedy. II Chronicles 36: 11-18
 - (2) This is the 3rd and final siege of Jerusalem. 586 BC



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- (3) The walls around Jerusalem are broken down and the temple is burned. II Kings 25: 9-10
 - (4) This is second way of calculating the 70 years of captivity as prophesied by Jeremiah. II Chronicles 36: 20-21; Ezra 6:14. It would be 70 years before the temple would be rebuilt.
 - (5) The Ark of the Covenant is never mentioned again. Jeremiah 3:16
9. Nebuchadnezzar sets a governor over the people that were left in the land but they murder him and flee into Egypt and take Jeremiah with them. Jeremiah continues to prophesy in Egypt.

C. Writings during the life of Daniel the prophet

1. Ezekiel
2. Jeremiah
3. Lamentations
4. Psalms 126 "Return of the Captives"
5. Psalms 137 "Sorrows of the Exiles"

D. Prophecies concerning this period of time

1. Leviticus 26: 27–46; Deuteronomy 4:24-27; 28:64-66; Psalms 4:11-14; Jeremiah 9:13-16 "I will scatter you among the Nations."
2. II Chronicles 34: 23-25 "I will bring evil upon this place...Because they have forsaken me"
3. II Kings 20: 16–18; Isaiah 39: 6–7 "Thy sons ... shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."
4. Isaiah 44: 24 through 45: 13...It is foretold what Cyrus would do some 200 to 250 years before he would be born.

THE KINGS & PROPHETS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

The United Kingdom

KING			Dates	Prophet
Saul			1050 - 1010	Samuel
KING OF JUDAH	Dates	KING OF ISRAEL		
David (in Hebron)	1010 - 1012	Isbosheth (son of Saul)	1010 - 1012	Gad
David (5 more years in Hebron and 33 in Jerusalem)			1012 - 970	Nathan
Solomon			970 - 931	

The Divided Kingdom

KINGDOM OF JUDAH			KINGDOM OF ISRAEL		
King	Dates of reign	Prophet	King	Dates of reign	Prophet
Rehoboam (bad King)	931-913	Shemaiah	Jeroboam (bad King)	931-910	Ahijah
Abijah (bad King)	913-911	Azariah Hanani	Nadab (bad King)	910-909	Un-named prophet Iddo Jehu
Asa (good King)	911-870		Elah (bad King)	886-885	
			Omri (bad King)	885-874	
Jehoshaphat (good King)	870-848	Jahaziel	Ahab (bad King)	874-853	Elijah Micaiah The man of God
			Ahaziah (bad King)	853-852	
Jehoram (bad King)	848-841	Obadiah Joel	Joram (bad King)	852-841	Elisha
Ahaziah (bad King)	841		Jehu (bad King)	841-814	
Athaliah (bad King)	843-837				
Joash (good King)	843-837		Jehoahaz (bad King)	814-798	
Amaziah (good King)	803-775	The man of God	Jehoash (bad King)	798-782	
Uzziah (good King)	787-735		Jeroboam II (bad King)	782-753	Amos
Jotham (bad King)	749-734		Zechariah (bad King)	753-752	
			Shallum (bad King)	752	
Ahaz (bad King)	741-726		Menahem (bad King)	752-742	
Hezekiah (good King)	726-697	Isaiah	Pekahiah (bad King)	742-740	
		Micah	Pekah (bad King)	740-732	Hosea
Hezekiah's sickness	712		Hoshea (bad King)	732-712	Oded
			ISRAEL'S END	721	

KINGDOM OF JUDAH

King	Date	
Manasseh, son of Hezekiah (bad King). He is taken into Babylonian captivity but he humbles himself, prays and is restored to Jerusalem. The evil that he leads the people in doing is what God cites when detailing the reasons He is bringing the Kingdom of Judah to an end.	697-642	Jeremiah
Amon, son of Manasseh (bad King). His own servants rise up against him and slay him.	641-640	
Josiah, son of Amon (good King). He is a child when he begins to reign. He brings about sweeping reforms in the social and religious life of the people but it is not enough to change the condition of the nation. Killed by Pharaoh-necho.	639-608	

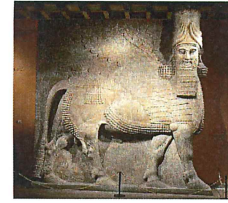
THE KINGS & PROPHETS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

King	Date	Prophet
Jehoahaz, son of Josiah (bad King). He was made king by the people. He was carried into Egypt as a captive by Pharaoh-necho after being on the throne only three months. II Kings 23: 31-34	608	Nahum Zephaniah Habakkuk Huldah Jeremiah
Jehoiakim/Eliakim, son of Josiah (bad King) made king by Pharaoh-necho. Subjugated to Babylon but revolted against Nebuchadnezzar after three years. This is the 1 st siege of Jerusalem in 597 when Daniel is taken captive. It is not known why he is allowed to remain on the throne. II Kings 23: 34 - 24: 6	608-597	
	597	
Jehoiachin/Coniah, son of Jehoiakim (bad King). He is taken to Babylon as a captive. This is the 2 nd siege of Jerusalem and deportation. II Kings 24: 6-16	597	
Zedekiah/Mattaniah son of Josiah (bad King) made king by Nebuchadnezzar. Revolted against Nebuchadnezzar after eleven years. He is taken to Babylon after his sons are slain in front of him and his eyes are put out. This is the 3 rd and final siege of Jerusalem. The temple is destroyed and Jerusalem is razed to the ground. II Kings 24: 17 – 25:11	597-586	
Gedaliah made Governor over the remnants in the land. He is slain by the Jews left in Judah and they flee into Egypt taking Jeremiah with them.	585	

RETURN FROM CAPTIVITY





Monarch or Prophet and his Work	Date	Prophet
Cyrus decrees the return of the captives. II Chronicles 36: 21-23; Ezra 1: 1-3	536	Ezra
Zerubbabel & Joshua begin rebuilding temple, Ezra chapter 3.	536	
Letters are sent to Ahasuerus (Artaxerxes) King of Persia to stop the rebuilding of Jerusalem, Ezra chapter 3.		Haggai Zechariah
Haggai, Zechariah resume rebuilding after petitioning Darius I and he decrees that not only should the building not be delayed but that they be helped and anyone that hindered them be destroyed, Ezra chapters 5 & 6.	520	
Temple foundation completed	516	
Esther becomes queen of Persia	478	
Esther/Mordecai-save their people	473	
Ezra returns to Jerusalem with the blessings of Artaxerxes to finish the temple, Ezra chapter 7.	475	
Nehemiah (cupbearer to Artaxerxes) requests to return to Jerusalem and he brings a 3 rd group back to rebuild the walls, Nehemiah chapter 2.	444	
The walls are completed in a time of great conflict, Nehemiah 7:1.		
Nehemiah returns again and sets things right that the people were not doing as the Law required, Nehemiah 13: 6-31.	432	
Malachi writes	430	Malachi

OLD WORLD EMPIRES

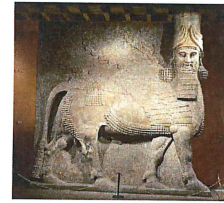





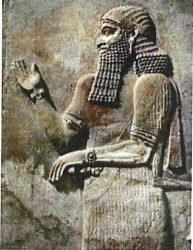


Assyria

The Assyrian Empire has been a power in the region for over a thousand years by the time we will pick up on its kings. It is my purpose to show the last few as some had an impact on the history of the nations of Israel and Judah.

Assur-nasirpal II	875-850	A cruel warrior King, made Assyria into a fierce fighting machine.
Shalmaneser III	850-825	Son of Assur-nasirpal II succeeds to the throne.
		 <p>Kurkh Monolith - British Museum The Kurkh Monolith depicts Ahab of Israel committing a certain amount of troops for the Battle of Karkar against Shalmaneser.</p>   <p>The black obelisk of Shalmaneser III depicts King Jehu of Israel bowing down in front of the Assyrian King.</p>
Shansi-adad V	825-808	Son of Shalmaneser III succeeds to the throne.
Adad-nirari III	808-783	Son of Shansi-adad V succeeds to the throne. Adad-Nirani III is thought by some to be the King of Nineveh who, upon receiving Jonah's prophecy of forthcoming doom, dressed himself in sackcloth and ordered a fast throughout the city. Jonah 3:6-9; II Kings 14: 25
Shalmaneser IV	783-771	Son of Adad-Nirani III succeeds to the throne.
Assur-dyan	771-753	Son of Adad-Nirani III brother of Shalmaneser IV succeeds to the throne.
Assur-lush	753-747	Son of Adad-Nirani III brother of Shalmaneser IV and Assur-dyan succeeds to the throne.

OLD WORLD EMPIRES



Tiglath Pileser III "Pul"	747-727	<p>It is suggested that he is a usurper that takes the throne and kills the royal family thus bringing stability back to the kingdom after a period of stagnation.</p> <p>Menahem of Israel pays tribute to the Assyrian King in order to establish his throne. 2 Kings 15:19-20</p> <p>He carries part of the Kingdom of Israel into captivity... 1 Chronicles 5:6, 25-26; in the days of Pekah King of Israel. 2 Kings 15:29</p> <p>Ahaz King of Judah pays tribute and asks for help with Israel and Syria. 2 Kings 16:5-18</p>
		
Shalmaneser V	727-722	<p>Son of Tiglath Pileser III succeeds to the throne.</p> <p>The Assyrian King detected conspiracy in Hoshea King of Israel and he sieged Samaria and took captives. 2 Kings 17:3-8; 18:9-12</p> <p>Some of the land are deported. 2 Kings 17: 24</p> <p>He would begin the final siege of Samaria and end of the Kingdom of Israel.</p>
		
Sargon II	722-705	<p>Son of Tiglath Pileser III and brother of Shalmaneser V succeeds to the throne.</p> <p>Under his rule the Assyrians complete the 3 year siege of Samaria. Isaiah mentions his taking of Ashdod. Isaiah 20: 1</p>
		
Sennacherib	705-681	<p>Son of Sargon II succeeds to the throne.</p> <p>He begins building and beautification in Nineveh. He builds canals and a garden. Perhaps a prototype for the legendary hanging garden of Babylon?</p> <p>The Assyrian King invades Judah and insults the God of Judah but this does not work out well for him. 2 Kings 18:13- 19:36; Isaiah 36 & 37; 2 Chronicles 32:1-22</p> <p>His own sons kill him in Nineveh while he is worshipping his god. Isaiah 37: 37-38, 2 Kings 19:36-37; 2 Chronicles 32: 21</p>
		
Esarhaddon	680-667	<p>Youngest son of Sennacherib secures the throne.</p> <p>The Assyrian King replaces the inhabitants of Israel with those of other areas. Ezra 4:2, 9-10</p>
		
Assur-banipal	667-626	<p>Son of Esarhaddon succeeds to the throne.</p> <p>He is the last of the strong kings in Assyria.</p>
		
Assur-etil-ilani	626	<p>Assur-etil-ilani son of Esarhaddon succeeds to the throne.</p>
Sin-sar-iskun	627-612	<p>Son of Assur-banipal and brother of Assur-etil-ilani succeeds to the throne in a time of uprising within the kingdom.</p>

OLD WORLD EMPIRES

