

CALL to PRAYER - (2 Cor. 9:15) Thank God for His providential orchestration of events (Prov. 19:21)

## *Daniel 1:1-2 - The God of History*

Intro - New series by suggestion. Daniel is an amazing book that chronicles the life of an amazing man who lived his life as a captive in foreign land. Though Daniel's life didn't turn out like he planned ... he was one of greatest men to ever live (God puts him in top 3 of OT people - Ezek. 14:20). Relevant book that shows how to righteously resist an unrighteous government....who dictates: what you eat, how you worship & curtails public expressions of faith. But the book of Daniel is much more than great historical stories...it is great history. It has miraculous history (Daniel's time) and miraculously predicts future history (even ours). Today - Overview of the history in Daniel. *OT History      Future History      Redemptive History* ...for God is the God of *His-story*

### *OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY*

1. The OT covers about 4000 years of history (from Creation to beginning of NT)
  - a. It is helpful to know where Daniel fits in this long timeframe
  - b. Secular host who suggested Solomon & Daniel were contemporaries
    - i. As though Pres. Biden and G. Washington talked (+ 120 years...c 1650)
2. The OT books are laid out chronologically.....in sections (5 sections)
  - a. Books of Moses - Gen. - Ex. 1 (2660 yrs.)      Ex. 2 - Deut. (40 years)
  - b. From the Exodus to Solomon's Temple = 480 yrs.      1 Kings 6:1
  - c. From Temple to exile = 360 yrs. (Daniel exiled in 605 BC)
    - i. 70 years in captivity (Daniel was reading the book of Jeremiah while in captivity - Dan. 9:2)
  - d. Return to land - build 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple (Haggai - Mal/ Ezra & Nehemiah) (130 yrs.)
  - e. 400 silent years after Malachi until NT timeframe and book of Matthew
  - f. Creation/Flood (1656)/Exodus (1012)/Temple (480)/Exile (360)/Captivity (70)/Return (130)/ Silent years (400)
3. Daniel's personal history in captivity
  - a. Exiled to Babylon (probably as a young teen & royal) during first deportation in 605 BC
  - b. There were other deportations over the next 19 yrs. until Temple destroyed 586 BC
  - c. Daniel had forced assimilation into Babylonian culture... (made a eunuch)
    - i. lived in Babylon until it was conquered by the Medes & Persians
    - ii. he lived through his own nations fall... and that conquering nations fall
4. God's hand in directing the unfolding of history
  - a. In the Book of Daniel, history is a stage where mankind is playing his part
    - i. Nations waring...political intrigue...people partying/scheming...nighttime dreaming
  - b. Behind the scenes are angelic and demonic spirits that are influencing the decisions of men and nations
  - c. Orchestrating it all is Almighty God...the Ruler of heaven and earth
  - d. Daniel is explicitly clear about God's sovereign rule over the affairs of men
    - i. Dan. 1:1-2a      4:17      4:34-35      5:23-28 (26-28)
  - e. History is His Story

## FUTURE HISTORY

- God “fore-ordains whatsoever comes to pass” (WCF).      Pre-written history
  - In Daniel we have history before it happens.      Foretold future history
- Skeptics scoff at the claim that the man Daniel wrote the *Book of Daniel* because of all the prophesied history. They say there is no way Daniel could have written it and been so precise about future events...which actually came to pass in history
  - Well....God plans it....sends His angel to tell Daniel (or Neb) about it....writes it
  - Predictive prophecy is a unique feature of the Bible.      God’s word foretells Gods plan
    - There are 100’s of predictive prophecies about nations/people/events
    - Specifics given.      Not a vague fortune cookie
- The Book lays out successive Super-Powers (revealed in various ways- dreams/visions/angels)
  - Babylon.....Medo/Persia.....Greece.....Rome
  - Daniel 8:20-21      *Alexander the Great* was 200 years after Daniel
- The Book of Daniel unveils the inner workings and scheming’s of nations/kings
  - Daniel 11:27      Details are laid out that MUST be done - Matt. 26:54
- Daniel speaks beyond ancient history into our future history
  - A great kingdom and king will rise at the end of the age
  - This ruler will war against the saints and Israel for 3 ½ years – (Daniel 7:21, 25)
  - The Everlasting Kingdom which will do away with all kingdoms of men – Dan. 2:44
  - There will be resurrection of the dead (Dan. 12:2)
  - Jesus tells His disciples to read and watch for what Daniel wrote about – Matt. 24:15
  - Daniel was given the scoop on what is in our future - Daniel 10:14      Dan. 12:8-9

## REDEMPTIVE HISTORY

1. Daniel records details about the Messiah...His coming.....and His Kingdom
  - a. 383 years from “the decree to rebuild” to *The Messiah*
  - b. Some think the Magi...who saw the star...came looking for the Messiah King because they had giving heed to what Daniel had said centuries earlier
  - c. At Triumphal entry Jesus said, “if you had known on this day...” (Luke 19:41-42)
    - i. They should have been looking for what Daniel wrote about
  - d. Daniel mentions the Messiah being: “cut off, “making atonement for iniquity”, “bringing in everlasting righteousness”, and, being God’s final word to mankind
2. Daniel also writes about the SON OF MAN
  - a. Who comes in clouds      Who has a Kingdom
  - b. Who is aware of His citizens suffering...hears their prayer....dispatches angels
  - c. Who gives His people the kingdom      Dan. 7:18, 27
  - d. His saints will shine like the stars      Dan. 12:3
3. History Lesson
  - a. “Our times are in His hands.”      Our disappointments are Divine appointments
    - i. Daniels life didn’t turn out like he planned...God had a better plan
    - ii. God redeems wrecked lives/history. His story is a story of life from death
  - b. God is directing and orchestrating the events of history
    - i. “Things aren’t falling apart...they are falling into place.” (Jan Markell)
  - c. You can entrust your life (body/soul/spirit) to the God of History