

# **Daniel; Fascinating**

1-4-15

Daniel 1:1 (ESV)

## **Daniel Taken to Babylon**

**1** In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

Daniel in the Lions Den

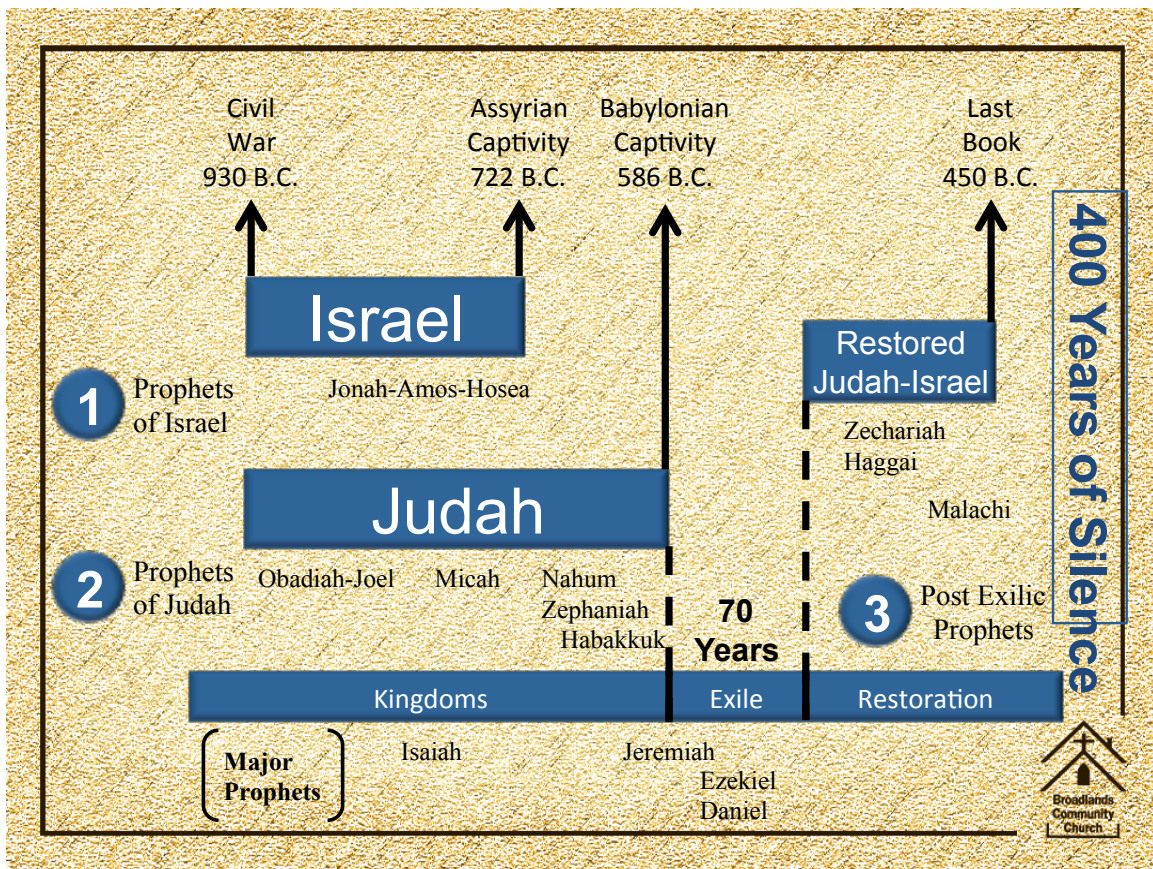


This book is absolutely fascinating. This is the most frequently studied of all the prophetic books. It is historically accurate and full of visions, miracles, angels, and end time prophecies. You want to understand the End Times; this is the first book you should study.



Also this is a series of messages you do not want to miss. In NT prophecy Daniel is referred to more than any other OT book. It clearly gives prophecies of the second coming of Christ. Daniel is the main source for one of the titles used to identify Jesus, “Son of Man”. This title comes from Daniel 7:13 which also is quoted six times in the NT.

Look at the historic Timeline Overhead:

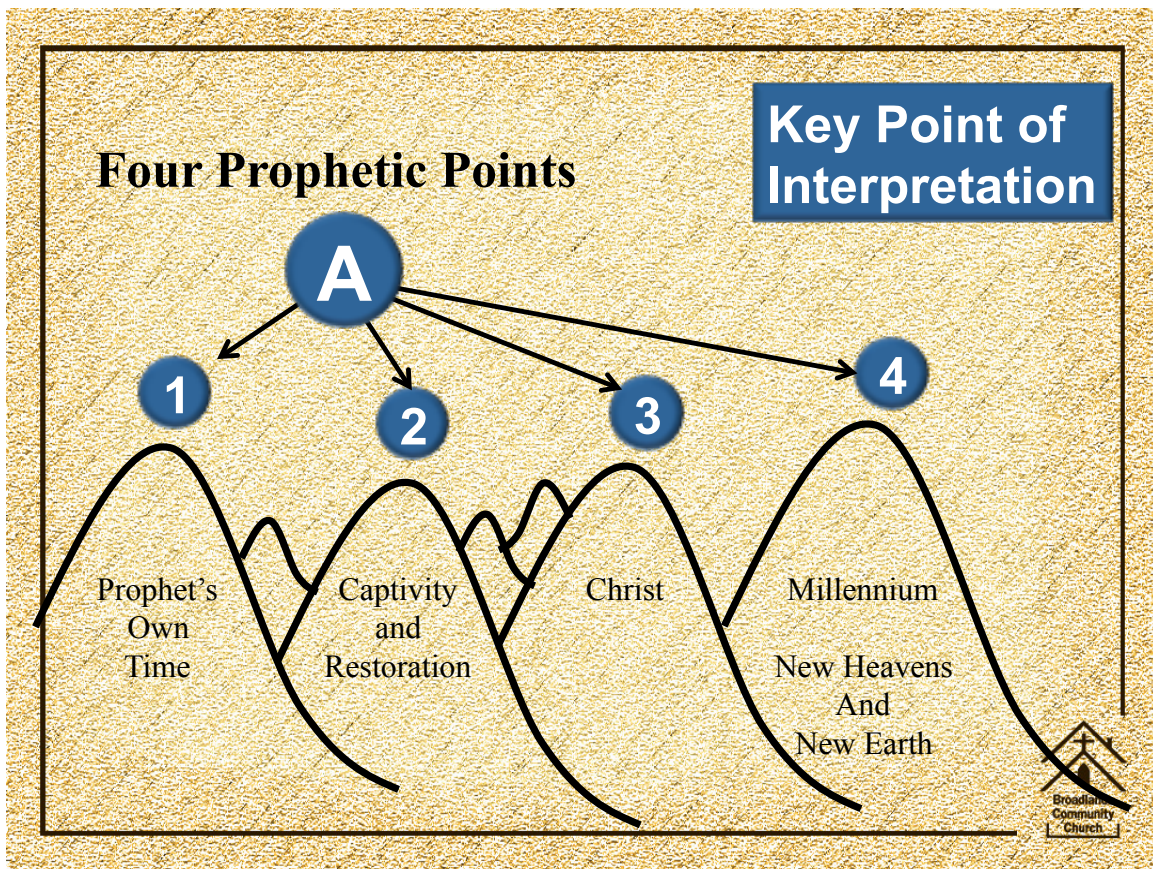


For perspective, we need to understand the time frame in which Daniel was written. From a human stand point, it seems that the religion of the Jews is over.



Their religion and promises have been completely discredited. **However, from God's point of view this is the setting for God "to write history" in advance.**

In Daniel as in all prophetic books, we need remember the Key points of interpretation. Look at this illustration of mountaintops and valleys. Biblical prophecies often speak to the mountaintops with the valleys left unexplained.



This is certainly true in Daniel. With the mountaintops, some deep valleys are exposed. Not only are there valleys and difficulties, but God was satisfied to leave Daniel with the mysteries unanswered.

Daniel 12:9 (ESV)

He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.

We are living in the time of the end; the time of fulfillment. We have more understanding than Daniel.

Daniel 10:12 (ESV)

Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.

To start off, let us put Daniel and his situation in its historical perspective.

Daniel 1:1–21 (ESV)

**1** In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. **2** And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. **3** Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, **4** youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the

literature and language of the Chaldeans. <sup>5</sup> The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. <sup>6</sup> Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. <sup>7</sup> And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. <sup>9</sup> And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, <sup>10</sup> and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king." <sup>11</sup> Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup> Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see." <sup>14</sup> So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. <sup>15</sup> At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who

ate the king's food. <sup>16</sup> So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

<sup>17</sup> As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. <sup>18</sup> At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup> And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. <sup>20</sup> And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. <sup>21</sup> And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Daniel and his friends were young teenagers when they were taken into captivity. Yet at a young age, they were instilled with a commitment to God.

Daniel 1:8 (ESV)

But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.

God supernaturally moved through these teenagers that were committed to HIM to “**form**” history.

Daniel 1:17 (ESV)

As for these four youths, **God gave** them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

**Message for us; God wants to supernaturally use you and your children in these last days.**

We need to understand that through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the least believer in today's church is greater than Daniel. Look what Jesus says:

Matthew 11:11 (ESV)

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**Look at what the Apostle Paul says:**

2 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV)

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Let us grasp the fact that we are more powerful than Daniel and have the full message of Salvation.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.