

**The Prophets**  
**Falls International Baptist Institute**  
**Class Eleven**  
**The Book of Daniel Part 1**

Text: Daniel 1

Intro. **The Book of Daniel is the fifth book of prophecy.** He is the fourth major prophet. While the book of Daniel is hated by the liberals and attacked by the modernists, we have sufficient evidence to prove its right to be in the canon of scripture. Ezekiel spoke of Daniel three times in Ezekiel 14:14, 20; 28:3. **Remember that Ezekiel and Daniel were contemporaries:** they lived at the same time. Daniel was taken into captivity in 605 BC as a fifteen or sixteen-year-old boy. Ezekiel was taken captive in the second deportation in 597 BC. **Daniel was taken to the king's court while Ezekiel was placed a few miles away in a village by the river Chebar.** Our Lord Himself referred to Daniel as "the prophet" in Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14. In fact, the prophecies that our Lord warns Jerusalem about are prophecies that were written in the book of Daniel. In this lesson, we will study the Life of Daniel.

**I. Daniel's Past**

- A. The name, Daniel, means "God is my Judge".
- B. *"We know more about Daniel the man than we do of any other prophet."* – J. Vernon McGee
- C. **Daniel was of "royal descent":** Daniel 1:3-6
- D. He was taken captive probably at the age of fifteen or sixteen by Nebuchadnezzar and deported to Babylon in 605 BC.
- E. Daniel, as well as Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah, and were given the best Babylonian education so that they could serve the king of Babylon: Daniel 1:4, 19-21 *"These young men were ... the brightest and the best, prepared by God for a strategic ministry far from home. They were handsome, healthy, intelligent, and talented. They belonged to the tribe of Judah... in every sense, they were the very best the Jews had to offer."* – Warren Wiersbe
- F. **Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah, and all had their names changed by the Babylonians.**
  - 1. **Daniel (God is my judge) was changed to Belteshazzar (Bel protects his life).**
  - 2. **Hananiah (The LORD shows grace) was changed to Shadrach (the command of Aku). Aku was the moon god.**
  - 3. **Mishael (Who is like God) was changed to Meshach (Who is as Aku is).**
  - 4. **Azariah (the LORD is my help) was changed to Abednego (Servant of Nebo).**
- G. *"Daniel was not a priest like Jeremiah or Ezekiel but like Isaiah he was descended from the time of Judah...a comparison of II Kings 20:17-18 with Isaiah 39:6-7 seems to indicate that Daniel was descended from King Hezekiah."* – Herbert Lockyer

- H. He was visited by both of Heaven's recorded archangels: Gabriel and Michael in Daniel 9:21 and 10:13.
- H. **Daniel's entire life was spent in exile in Babylon. He would literally live through the seventy-year captivity and be a high-ranking adviser to three Gentile world powers: Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece.**

## II. Daniel's Purpose

- A. As a young man, he purposed that he would not defile himself. Daniel 1:8 says *"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."*
- B. As an old man, he purposed that he would pray. Daniel 6:10
- C. **Daniel is one of two men in the Scriptures whom the scriptures have not one sin or fault to record. The other man is Joseph.**
- D. Someone wisely said that "if you can't live the Jerusalem life in Jerusalem, you will never live it in Babylon." Daniel and his three friends lived the Jerusalem life in Babylon. God give us a generation of young men and women who will purpose in your hearts never to defile yourselves; who will purpose in your hearts that will live for God, come what may; who purpose in your hearts that you will faithfully serve Him without compromise the entirety of your lives!

## III. Daniel's Prayer

- A. Daniel 2:17-23 Read the story
- B. Daniel 6:10 *"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforesaid."* This prayer got him thrown into the Lion's Den! And God delivered him. He would rather spend time in the Lion's Den than to miss his prayer time.
- C. Daniel 9:3-19 A Prayer of Individual and National Confession
- D. Daniel 10 is one prayer.
- E. **Daniel is called "greatly beloved" three times by God** in this book. This is the secret to his being used of God so greatly. He spent much time in prayer. It is interesting to note that while Daniel is the greatly beloved prophet who wrote the greatest book of prophecy in the Old Testament; the apostle John is the disciple who is "beloved" by Jesus, and He was used to write the greatest book of prophecy in the New Testament. Neither book could be understood without the other.

## IV. Daniel's Prophecy

- A. *"Daniel comes before us as an interpreter of dreams and of signs, a conspicuous seer, an official of kings."* – Herbert Lockyer

- B. *“One fourth of the books in the Bible are of prophetic nature: the subject and statement of the books are eschatological, that is , they deal with prophecy.” – J. Vernon McGee*
- C. *“There are certain great subjects of prophecy. They are like planes flying into an airport from all sections of the world, and you can go to the Book of Revelation and see all these great subjects brought to final fruition. The main subject of prophecy is the Lord Jesus Christ. Other topics include Israel, the gentile nations, evil, Satan, the Man of Sin, the Great Tribulation period, and how this age will end...then, of course, there are the subject of the kingdom, the Millennium, and eternity future.”*  
*“The neglect of the study of prophecy has produced certain harmful results which I think are quite evident today.” - J. Vernon McGee*  
Many of the cults are based upon a misunderstanding of Bible prophecy.
- D. The first half of the book of Daniel is historical in nature; the last half is prophecy. *“Daniel gives us the skeleton of prophecy on which all prophecy is placed.” – J. Vernon McGee*  
We will teach in our next lesson about these prophecies:
  1. The Image in Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream: Daniel 2
  2. The Beasts: Daniel 7
  3. Daniel’s Seventy Weeks: Daniel 9
- E. It is interesting to note that Daniel 2:4 – 7:28 was written in the Aramaic language making this book a two-language book.
- F. The key thought and central purpose of the book are expressed in chapter 4, three times in verses 17, 25, and 32 *“that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will”*.