

1 Daniel In the Critics Den

Daniel 1:1-2

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Daniel In the Critics Den**3 THE CONTENTIONS OF THE CRITICS**

- The Book of Daniel is not historically accurate.
- It is actually one of the Jewish writings of the 1st and 2nd centuries B.C. and was written under the pseudonym of Daniel.
- Those critics say it was actually written about 164 B.C. to encourage loyal Jews during their times of suffering and trial during the period of the Maccabees.

4 Contention Number One – Prominence of the Supernatural

- The Critics – Liberal theologians – do not believe in either miracles or prophecy – They consider the miracles to be fables – They attack all miracles in the Bible
- The miracles in the Bible rest on a firm foundation – THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST!
- If God could cause Jesus Christ to rise from the dead, then every miracle in the Bible is true – GOD IS A GOD OF MIRACLES!

5 Why did God display His power through miracles in Daniel?

- Israel was in captivity – Jerusalem was destroyed and the Temple was a heap of rubble.
- Israel's God, Jehovah, had apparently proven Himself inferior to Bel-Merodach, the god of the Babylonians.
- The miracles in Daniel were a sign from God both to Israel and the Gentiles that God was still on the throne.

6 RESULT OF THE MIRACLES

- The Jews saw the power of their God – They repented of their idolatry and rebellion and have remained faithful to Jehovah ever since.

7 Contention Number Two

- Greek words appear in Daniel which prove that the book was not written until about 160 B.C.
- Excavations of ancient Greek cities, especially in Egypt, prove that there was a very busy commercial trade between Greece and Babylonia about one century before the time when Daniel was written (550 B.C.)

8 Contention Number Three**9 Contention Number Four**

- The opening verse blunder – In Daniel 1:1 it says, *"In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it."*
 - This statement is said to be inaccurate inasmuch there is no references elsewhere to such a siege.
 - Jeremiah 25:1 says that the 4th year of Jehoiakim's reign was the 1st year of Nebuchadnezzar's

- ARE THE CRITICS RIGHT? Is there an error in Daniel 1:1?

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10 **Berosus**

- Berosus in his history states that on the year before Nebuchadnezzar became king, he led a military sweep against the west, including Palestine. Berosus also states that Nebuchadnezzar had taken captives from among the Jews.
- How could Nebuchadnezzar have those Jewish captives if he had not invaded Judea? Once again the critics are proven wrong!!!

11 **THE CONFIRMATION OF THE CONTENTS**

- "The Book of Daniel has proven to be the anvil upon which the hammer of the critics has been broken." – So what are the positive evidences for the genuineness of the book? (*Daniel* by A. C. Gaebelein, p. 6)

12 **The Witness of the Prophet Ezekiel**

- The genuineness of the Book of Ezekiel has never been seriously questioned.
- Ezekiel mentions Daniel three times: 14:14: "*Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness," says the LORD GOD.*" 14:20 – Similar content -- 28:3 – A description of king of Tyre – Type of Satan: "*Behold, you are wiser than Daniel! There is no secret that can be hidden from you!*"

13 **First Book of Maccabees**

- First Maccabees 2:60 states: "*Daniel in his innocency was delivered out of the mouth of the lions.*"
- This proves that by the time of the first century B.C. the Book of Daniel was known and accepted as true history and as the Word of God.

14 **The Book of Daniel Included in the Hebrew Canon of the Old Testament**

- The canon of the Old Testament was largely settled and completed during the lifetime of Nehemiah who lived in the 4th century B.C.
- Since the Hebrew Canon was largely settled by Nehemiah's day, Daniel must have been written at the time Daniel claimed, rather than the later date claimed by the critics

15 **The Witness of Fulfilled Prophecy**

- The center of all prophecy and its purpose and goal is the revealing of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself – His first coming, His suffering and death, and His glory attained through His resurrection and His Second Coming.
- When we approach the study of the Bible from an unbiased perspective, we must acknowledge that fulfilled prophecy gives the clearest and most conclusive evidence that the Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God.

16 **The Witness of our Lord Himself**

- Jesus placed His stamp of approval upon Daniel and his writings – Therefore, to doubt the Book of Daniel is to cast doubt upon the authority of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of the world.

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17 **Matthew 24**

- Matthew 24:15: *"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand)," Daniel 9:27: Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."*

18 **Matthew 24 (2)**

- Matthew 24:21: *"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be." Daniel 9:26: "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

19 **Matthew 24 (3)**

- Matthew 24:30: *"Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Daniel 7:13-14: "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! . . . 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him . . ."*

20 **CONCLUSION**

- Sir Isaac Newton said, *"To reject Daniel is to reject the Christian religion."*
- If Daniel is true, the Bible is true. If Daniel is false, the Bible is false.
- There is ample evidence to prove that Daniel is a part of the inspired record. Even as he came forth victorious from the lion's den, even so the Book of Daniel comes forth victorious from the Critic's Den.