

BOOK OF DANIEL
INTRODUCTION
DANIEL 1:1-4

I. CONSIDER THE BOOK!

Daniel is one of the most controversial books in the Bible!

A. Liberals Hate It For Its Testimony To Divine Inspiration!

1. **Its Prophecies are very detailed in their content and broad in their scope!**
2. **Its Prophecies stretch from Daniel's time to the day of the Second Coming of the Messiah!**

B. The Efforts Of The Liberals Have All Been In Vain!

1. **One of the strongest rebuttals is the fact that Daniel was included in the Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Scriptures.**
Over 100 years prior to Antiochus Epiphanes!
2. **Another strong rebuttal comes from the historical writings of the First Century Jewish historian, Josephus. (*Jewish Antiquities, vol. 11, p. 311*)**
3. **The most important evidence of the book's authenticity is in Matthew 24:15 where Jesus attested to the validity of the book.**

II. CONSIDER THE BACKGROUND!

The nation of Judah was God's chosen people and they should have served God after all that God had done for them, but as a whole, the nation had backslidden from the ways of God.

A. The Real Problems Began In 2 Kings 21 With A King By The Name Of Manasseh.

1. He Lived Like A Heathen. (vs 2)
2. He Restored Idolatry And Baal Worship. (vs 3)
3. He Desecrated The House Of God . (vs 4-5)
4. He Was Involved In Witchcraft. (vs 6)

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5. He Caused The People Of God To Live Worse Than The Heathens. (vs 9)

6. He Shed Innocent Blood. (Vs 16)

God pronounced judgment upon Judah in vs 11-15.

B. After 55 Years Of Manasseh's Reign, Amon Came To Power. (2 Kings 21:19-26)

C. Josiah Then Reigns And A Shallow, Short-Lived Revival Took Place For A Period Of Time. (2 Kings 22:1-2)

1. The House Of God Was Repaired. (vs 5-6)
2. The Book Of The Law Was Found. (vs 7)
3. The Book Of The Law Was Read. (vs 11)
4. The Counsel Of The Lord Was Sought. (Vs 13)
5. Josiah Was Given A Reprieve. (Vs 19-20)
6. Josiah Cleaned House. (Vs 23-25)
7. However, The Hearts Of The People Had Not Turned. (Jeremiah 25:3-11)
2 Kings 23:26 states that the LORD had not turned from his wrath that Manasseh had provoked.

D. After Josiah, Things Began To Return To The Way They Had Been Before Josiah Came To Power.

1. Jehoahaz reigned and returned to wickedness. (2 Kings 23:31-32)
2. After him Jehoiakim reigned and nothing changed. (2 Kings 23:36-37)

E. Then We Come To 2 Kings 24:1-4 And We See What Is Happening In Daniel 1:1.

1. Judah's captivity came at the commandment of God!
2. Judah's captivity came because of the sins of Manasseh!