

Book of Daniel ***“The Resolute Man”***

Introduction

The book of Daniel is no doubt the key to all biblical prophecy. It is the great prophetic (apocalyptic) book of the Old Testament, whereas Revelation is that of the New Testament.

Passages such as Matthew chapter 24 – 25, Mark chapter 13, Luke chapter 21, and the book of Revelation would be impossible to interpret and understand without the knowledge of the book of Daniel.

Daniel is the fourth of the major prophets of the Old Testament: Daniel is named as the author both internally (Daniel 8:1; 9:2 & 10:2) and in the New Testament Matthew 24:15.

Background: Daniel’s book records events from his life during the reigns of the Babylonian kings Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 B.C.) and Belshazzar (553 – 539 B.C.), and during the first years of Persian rule under Darius and Cyrus.

Daniel lived his life in Babylon during the entire seventy years of Israel captivity. And Daniel probably finished his writings around 536 B.C.

The book of Daniel is broken down in two sections:

- The Prophetic plan of Israel
- The Prophetic plan for the Gentiles

The first seven chapters are written in Aramaic, the trade language of the Babylonians. The prophecies of the last five chapters are in the Hebrew, targeting the Hebrew audience.

Purpose: The book of Daniel was written to encourage the exiled Jews by revealing God’s sovereign plan for Israel during and after the period known as “The Times of the Gentiles” which began with the

Babylonian captivity and will really end with the Messianic kingdom, which will last forever.

God is still working with His chosen people, Israel. And He is still working with you!

- Isaiah speaks of the salvation of the Lord
- Jeremiah speaks of the judgment of the Lord
- Ezekiel speaks of the glory of the Lord,
- Daniel speaks of the kingdom of the Lord.

Contrary, to the belief of many; the book of Daniel is meant to be understood.

Jesus said in 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)...

If you read the book of Daniel and only see a furnace of fire, a den of lions and strange visions, you have missed the main character in this book – the sovereign God!

Daniel wrote this book not to exalt his self but to glorify the Lord. In every circumstance, in every crisis, Daniel points us to a God who is at work in human history.

To say that God is sovereign simply means *that nothing happens that is not planned or permitted by God.*

This is true of kingdoms and it is true of our lives.

Isaiah 46:8 – 13 says, *Remember this, and show yourselves men; (literally this reads, “Remember this, take courage, be men”.*

Recall to mind O you transgressor; Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and the ancient times things that are not yet done,

sayings, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure, calling a bird of prey from the east, the man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.

“Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted, who are far from righteousness: I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger (delay). And I will place salvation in Zion, for Israel My glory.

Daniel’s God is not weak, frustrated deity who sits in heaven, wringing His hands, hoping everything will turn out right. He is a God who orders all events according to His own will, plan and purpose.

He is still working with the nation He loves, Israel.

God worked in Daniel’s life in extraordinary ways and is characterized by his faith, prayer, courage, consistency, and a lack of compromise.

Daniel is able to resist compromise because of his relationship to the sovereign God. His obedience was simply as expression of God’s kingdom in his life. Daniel’s courage to proclaim God’s message came from his personal relationship with the Lord who resigned as King, even above the kings of Babylon.

God desires to do a work in your life like He did in Daniel’s. You may be thinking how?

Be prepared in this study to see God in a new way! It will be a stretching, convicting but life-changing journey as we seek to live a life as *“A Resolute Man”*, a man who is totally sold out for the Lord.

May God bless you as you study the lessons of this great book in the Old Testament the Book of Daniel.