

## Old Testament Survey

### Daniel

#### Introduction

- Jesus identified Daniel as a prophet (Matt 24:15) although the Book of Daniel does not call him one. Daniel functioned primarily as an administrator in both the courts of Babylon and Persia.
- Daniel was among the first wave of captives taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC. He was a youth of about 15 years of age and spent the next 70 years (Jer 29:10) in captivity until the time of his death in 536 BC (3<sup>rd</sup> year of Cyrus the Persian).

While living in Jerusalem during its last days he heard the preaching of Jeremiah

While living in Babylon during its days of captivity he heard the preaching of Ezekiel

- Daniel was of a noble family, physically attractive, and mentally sharp (1:3-4). His name means God is my Judge. Ezekiel referred to Daniel as righteous (14:14) and wise (28:3).
- Daniel is the primary character of the book as well as its author. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century serious challenges were made as to authorship citing specific historical details were not prophetic but descriptive. The claim is that a secondary author penned the latter part of the book as if it were prophecy, but it was actually a recounting of historical events.
- The composition and construction of the Book of Daniel is simple and unique.

Written in two languages: Hebrew (1:1-2:4a; chapters 8-12) – Jewish tongue  
Aramaic (2:4b-7:28) – Gentile tongue

Two primary genres: Historical Prose – Simple historical account of events  
Apocalyptic – To unveil or reveal what is hidden

- Dreams and visions
- Extensive use of signs and symbols
- Emphasis on future events
- Prose rather than poetic style

The Book of Revelation follows an apocalyptic style (Rev 1:1)

## Major Themes

- The times of the Gentiles

The dream of Nebuchadnezzar (Chapter 2) of the statue made of various metals

Head	Gold	Babylonian Empire
Arms/Chest	Silver	Medo-Persian Empire
Waist/Thighs	Bronze	Grecian Empire
Legs	Iron	Roman Empire
Feet	Iron/Clay	Weakened Roman Empire

### **2:44-45**

The vision of Daniel (Chapter 7) of the four beasts

Eagle-winged lion	Babylonian Empire
Bear with three ribs in its mouth	Medo-Persian Empire
The ribs represent the conquered nations of Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon	
Winged leopard with four heads	Grecian Empire
Alexander the Great conquered the world with swiftness but died childless, leaving his empire to be divided among his four generals.	

Rise of Antiochus Epiphanies – The Abomination of Desolation (9:27)

Beast with iron teeth	Roman Empire
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### **7:9-10** (Rev 1:12-16)

Two characteristics of apocalyptic literature:

1. The sovereignty of God over His world and world events
2. The victory that belongs to the people of God **12:1-3**