

THE JEWS IN EXILE

Quote:

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

Daniel 3:16-18

Daniel: Prince of the Prophets

Mark above and below Daniel 1

Daniel means: “The Judgment of Ail”.

He was probably born at about the time of Josiah’s reform, and was therefore a product of his reformation. He was to outlive the 70 year captivity in Babylon (Dan 1:21).

Daniel remained faithful to Yahweh as a young man in a wealthy environment (being of the kings seed - Dan 1:3), and in captivity (Dan 1), under pressure (Dan 1:4-8), under threat of death (Dan 2:13-19), in old age, before the king of Babylon (Dan 5:17-28), when the law of the land conflicted with Yahweh’s laws (Dan 6:10), and when faced with lions (Dan 6:13-22).

He is called “a man greatly beloved” (Dan 10:11), an honour he shares with the apostle John (John 13:23) who in the book of Revelation unfolds and extends the prophecies of Daniel.

Daniel is commended for his faithfulness in Ezekiel 14:14,20, being grouped with Noah and Job as examples of men who were not only righteous, but saved others by their actions, and is noted for his great wisdom in Ezekiel 28:3. All this while he is still alive. Finally at the end of his life he is given the assurance that he would stand in his lot (his inheritance) which he would receive in the day of judgment (Dan 12:13).

His prophecies predict the destinies of two powers:

1. The Kingdom of Men - Dan 4:17.
2. The Kingdom of God - Dan 2:44; 4:3; 7:27.

He was a student of the Word, being well acquainted with the writings of Jeremiah (Dan 9:1-3). By this he understood the times and seasons in which he lived. He, along with Ezekiel worked hard to prepare his people for their return to Jerusalem when Cyrus made the decree at the end of the 70 years of captivity.

Mark this Chapter Breakdown in Daniel

Daniel - The Universal Sovereignty of God.

Ch 1-6 - As Revealed Through Personal Experience

- Ch 1 - Human Learning Judged
- Ch 2 - Human Philosophy Judged
- Ch 3 - Human Worship Judged
- Ch 4 - Human Pride Judged
- Ch 5 - Human Impiety Judged
- Ch 6 - Human Oppression Judged

Ch 7-12 - As Revealed By Prophetic Revelation

- Ch 7 - Judgment on the Western Dominion
- Ch 8 - Judgment on the Eastern Dominion
- Ch 9 - Judgment on Israel after the Flesh
- Ch 10 - Judgment on Israel after the Spirit
- Ch 11 - Judgment on the Oppressors of the Land
- Ch 12 - Judgment on the Oppressors of the People