

Introduction to the Book of *Daniel*

Location in the canon of Scripture:

In the Jewish Scriptures it is located in the third section called The _____ (The Law, The Prophets, and The Writings). It is listed in this section because Daniel was not a formal _____ of Israel such as Jeremiah or Ezekiel. Of the thirty-nine canonical books of the Old Testament, it is listed _____.

The complete Jewish bible = _____ (24)

The Hebrew word, "Tanakh" is a compilation of beginning consonants that form the internal divisions of the corpus: ___orah, ___evi'im, and ___ethuvim.

Torah (5)

Genesis

Leviticus

Deuteronomy

Nevi'im: Prophets (8)

Joshua

Samuel (2)

_____ (2)

Jeremiah

The Twelve (12)

The “prophetic” distinction lies in the “_____” not in the focused “foretelling.” The prophetic voice of the “former prophets” was to speak to national obedience or disobedience to the _____ and the _____ of God that lie behind it. They also proclaimed _____ upon Israel and on nations that would come against Israel – presently or in the future.

Kethuvim: Writings (11)

Psalms

Ezra/Nehemiah

Proverbs

Chronicles

Job

Song of songs

Ruth

Lamentations

Ecclesiastes

Esther

Daniel

It is difficult to discern why Daniel was not included in the “Prophets.” Even Jewish rabbis are mystified by its placement. A good portion of the book is connected to Daniel interpreting dreams and receiving dreams/visions of upcoming attractions. Some in the _____ tradition believe a “prophetic” word comes with an intimate knowledge of God, while

dreams and visions are simply factual knowledge of things to come. Cp. Jacob's dream of the ladder in Genesis 28:20-21.

In the English Scriptures it is located in the fourth section of the Old Testament called The _____ (The Law, History, Poetry, _____, and Minor Prophets). Of the thirty-nine canonical books of the Old Testament, it is listed _____.

Date of Authorship:

The Jewish Study Bible records *Daniel* as being written around 164 B.C. E. This date was pushed by Porphyry (A.D. 232-303) who maintained the book was written by an unknown Jew who lived at the time of the Maccabean revolt in 164 B.C. E. (The year Antiochus IV Epiphanes died). Porphyry was an enemy of Christianity who rejected any _____ from God.

Conservative scholars place the writing of Daniel during his lifetime, _____ B. C.

Division of the Book:

The book is divided into two equal parts. Chapters 1-6 are _____ narratives and chapters 7-12 contain 4 _____ visions. The first section is told in _____ person narrative while the second is told in _____ person. Note: *Daniel* is one of two apocalypses in the Hebrew Bible. The other is in Isaiah 24:1-27:13, also know as the "Little Apocalypse."

Apocryphal Associations:

There are three other internal sections connected with *Daniel* that are not recognized by the Hebrew or Protestant Canon. They are recorded as The Prayer of _____ and the Song of the Three Jews (inserted between 3:23 and 3:24), _____ (Chapter 13; when Daniel was still a boy), and _____ and the _____ (Chapter 14; with a spurious account of Daniel in the lion's den).

Key Allusions and Contemporaries to the Person of Daniel:

_____ and _____

¹³ "Son of man, if a country sins against me by being unfaithful and I stretch out my hand against it to cut off its food supply and send famine upon it and kill its people and their animals, ¹⁴ even if these three men-- Noah, Daniel and Job-- were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign LORD. (Ezek. 14:13-14 NIV)

²⁰ "...as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, even if Noah, Daniel and Job were in it, they could save neither son nor daughter. They would save only themselves by their righteousness. (Ezek. 14:20 NIV)

³ "Are you wiser than Daniel? Is no secret hidden from you?" (Ezek. 28:3; Speaking of the King of Tyre; a type of the Antichrist)

The word came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, which was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. (Jer. 25:1 NIV)

Other Contemporaries of Daniel: Minor prophets

_____ – was an “11th hour” prophet to Judah regarding their exile to Babylon.

_____ – wrote about the fall of Nineveh, Assyrian in 614 B.C. by Babylon

_____ – warned Israel about the coming judgment of God and the Babylon captivity.

Language of Daniel:

Chapters 1:1-2:4a and chapters 8-12 were written in _____.

They speak to the past/present state of Israel and future Israel.

Chapters 2:4b-7 are written in _____. They speak of the Gentile present/future.

Historical Context:

614 B.C. ~ Nahum 1:5-8 – The Babylonians laid siege to _____ until a flood came and destroyed the city.

609 B.C. ~ 2 Kings 23:29-30 – A remnant of the _____ fled to Haran. Pharaoh _____ went north to Carchemish to help, and King _____ of Judah came out to fight him. Josiah died in battle and Pharaoh Neco was defeated by the Babylonians.

2 Kings 23:31-37 – _____ replaced Josiah but was taken to Egypt and died there. His younger brother, _____, was placed in authority over him by Pharaoh Neco.

605 B.C. ~ 2 Kings 24:1a – During Jehoiakim's reign, _____ invaded from the north. This was the _____ deportation of the Jews to Babylon and other designated places. _____ and his friends were taken at this time. Jehoiakim rebelled and died during the siege. His younger brother, _____ reigned in his place.

597 B.C. ~ 2 Kings 24:1b-16 – Jehoiachin and the nobles surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar during the siege, and the _____ deportation took place.

586 B.C. ~ 2 Kings 24:17-25:1-12 – Jehoiachin's uncle, Zedekiah, was appointed to take his place. _____ rebelled and the _____ and _____ deportation took place. This left only the poor, some farmers, and a hand full of administrators. _____, the prophet was left in Jerusalem but even those who were left rebelled and ran to Egypt, conscripting Jeremiah – where he eventually died.

Note: There are some _____ that say Daniel was able to return briefly to Jerusalem to see his beloved city one last time. But all accounts having him dying and being buried in _____, Iraq, (Babylon) - the place where he spent most of his life.

There is no record of a _____. Most believe that Daniel was either castrated (made a eunuch) or emasculated (removal of all of his male genitalia) to serve the king unhindered/undistracted.

Main Themes:

1. **God is _____.**

It is the Lord who hands the Jews over to the Babylonians. It is the Lord who allows the destruction of the Temple and the suspension of their sacrificial system. It is the Lord who favors Daniel and his friends, who shows favorable disposition to his overseers and even the king. It is the Lord who gives dreams and the interpretation of dreams. It is the Lord who sets forth the future of nations and the conclusion of humanity.

2. **God _____ about the suffering of His people.**

The book of Daniel is the ultimate story of redemption – a Messiah would come to care for sin and an angel (Michael) will always fight for them.

3. **Don't _____.**

The book of Daniel is a story of one man and his friends who would not compromise their convictions, even if it seemed foolish or dangerous to those on the outside.

4. **Faithfulness to God has its challenges but also _____.**

The book of Daniel is a story of one man and his friends who were willing to give their lives for their spiritual integrity and they were rewarded numerous times for their faithfulness and promised a future reward at the end of days.

5. **God's kingdom will be _____ in comparison to those that are and have been proven to be temporary.**

The book of Daniel lays down the future coming and going of several nations, but His kingdom will remain forever.

6. _____ **is an essential part of being a follower of God/Jesus.**

In the book of Daniel, prayer is interwoven into every major shift of the book.

7. **There is always _____ when God is involved.**

The larger story of Daniel is God's providential care of Israel so that a Redeemer would ultimately come for them and for the whole world. God keeps His covenantal promises.