

The Bible's Most Unusual Prophet

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Who was Daniel?

Was Daniel a prophet?

Is this a biography?

Where did these events take place?

When did these events take place?

What was this moment in Israel's history?

- For the previous 400+ years: *Israel had their own land and kingdom*
- When Daniel begins: *destruction and exile; losing their land, temple, leadership, and national identity*
- 70 years later: *portions of the Jewish people began to return to their own land; the temple and walls of Jerusalem were eventually rebuilt*
- 440 years later: *the Jews experienced their worst season of persecution ever*
- 600 years later: *Jesus came*
- 670 years later: *Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans*

"The most devastating historical and theological event in all of [Israel's] long history." (Zuck, 387)

"Every visible expression of Israel's very existence collapsed, and the shape of the future was completely unknown." (Baldwin, 58)

"Daniel shows] the unrelenting pulse of all creation as it moves toward the final establishment of the Kingdom of God.... History is directed by his dynamic prophetic word.... History is not an unending capricious flow of kingdoms rising and falling, but a definite march toward the rule of God." (Carpenter, 306)

"The occasion for the book is God's movement among the nations (Ezra 1:1–2) to accomplish his goals for his people." (Carpenter, 293)