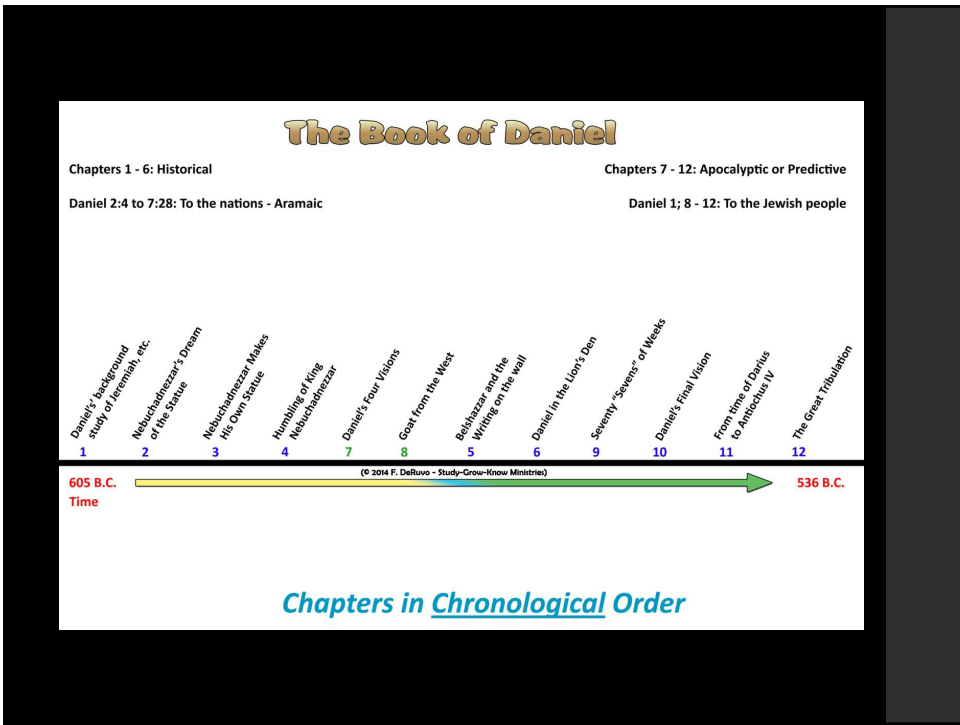


Sunday evenings - Presented by Fred DeRuvo

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Introduction

- **Author/Date:**

- The prophet Daniel, starting 605 BC.
- Daniel was probably a teenager at this time.
- He continued in office as a public servant until 538 and prophet until 536 BC.
- So-called "Liberal" scholars believe someone from 2nd century looked back and simply wrote down recorded history as though it had not happened yet

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Introduction

- **Background:**

- In 605 B.C., Prince Nebuchadnezzar led the Babylonian army of his father Nabopolassar against the allied forces of Assyria and Egypt.
- Victory over them provided Babylon with supremacy in the ancient Near East.
- Judah also came under Babylonian control.
- That same year (605 BC) Nabopolassar died and Nebuchadnezzar became king.
- Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah same year.

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Introduction

- **Background:**

- Nebuchadnezzar took some royal and noble captives to Babylon (Dan. 1:1-3), including Daniel, plus some of the vessels from Solomon's temple (2 Chron. 36:7).
- First of 3 deportations to Babylon when Jehoiakim (2 Kings 24:1-4), was king of Judah.
- Second deportation around 597 BC.
- Third deportation 11 years later; Mattaniah, whose name Nebuchadnezzar had changed to Zedekiah, was then Judah's puppet king.
- He rebelled against Babylon's sovereignty by secretly making a treaty with Pharaoh Hophra under pressure from Jewish nationalists (Jer. 37—38).

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Introduction

- **Background:**

- After an 18-month siege, Jerusalem fell. Nebuchadnezzar returned to Jerusalem, burned the temple, broke down the city walls, and took all but the poorest of the Jews captive to Babylon.
- He also took Zedekiah prisoner to Babylon, after he executed his sons, and put out the king's eyes, at Riblah in Aram (modern Syria; 2 Kings 24:18—25:24).

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Introduction

- **Background:**

- Length of Daniel's ministry was 70 years.
- This was the entire duration of Babylonian captivity.
- The internal and external evidence favoring Daniel's authorship is overwhelming.
- Both within the book and by others including Ezekiel (Ezek. 14:14; 28:3).
- Jesus also credits Daniel as the actual author (Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14).
- Jews and early church fathers believed Daniel wrote the book named after him.

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Introduction

- **Background:**

- The Aramaic portions in Daniel deal with matters pertaining to all the citizens of the Babylonian and Persian empires.
- The Hebrew sections describe predominantly Jewish concerns and God's plans for Israel.
- Daniel wrote the Aramaic sections for the benefit of his Gentile neighbors, and wrote the whole book for the Jews, who could read both languages.

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Introduction

- **Purpose:**
 - One of the main purposes of Daniel is to give hope to Israel.
 - Daniel's purpose in writing blended the two themes of prophecy and piety.
 - He wrote first to show God's future program for the nation of Israel (in light of her fall) during and after 'the times of the Gentiles.
 - Second, he wrote to show what Jewish believers' present response should be as they await the coming kingdom of God.
 - The Church is NOT included in any portion of Daniel.
 - However, this is the first book written to Gentiles and Jews

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Introduction

- **Overall Purpose:**
 - To demonstrate that God is sovereignly in control of the nations under whom Israel is being disciplined until the time comes when He will bring in Messiah's kingdom, and that Israel will ultimately be restored and blessed in this kingdom after she has first undergone tribulation and sufferings imposed by the antichrist.

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Introduction

- **Theology:**

- The absolute sovereignty and transcendence of God above all angels and men literally permeates the book.
- The fortunes of kings and the affairs of men are subject to God's decrees.
- The book of Daniel makes crystal clear that the Lord God remains absolutely sovereign over human affairs.

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Introduction

- **Theology:**

- Three aspects of Yahweh's sovereignty that Daniel reveals (Merrill):
 - God's sovereignty over all
 - God's sovereignty over (fallen) man, and
 - Restoration of God's universal dominion
- Daniel's prophecies also reveal the fulfillment of God's great redemptive plan that began at the Fall and will culminate in the return and reign of the Son of Man on the earth.

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Introduction

- **Theology:**

- There is also a strong theological emphasis on the power of prayer.
 - Chapters 1-6 and 9 emphasize this.
 - God's working in response to His people's prayers is clearly evident throughout.
- Finally, the indomitable grace of God is evidenced throughout the book.

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Introduction

- **Theme:**

- The primary theme of the book of Daniel is the revelation of Israel's future in relation to the Gentile kingdoms (now that the nation has gone into exile in Babylon), and God's exaltation of Daniel as a channel through whom He reveals his will.

- **Genre:**

- Daniel is historical narrative with prophecy and is also apocalyptic in nature because of its description of the end of the world.

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Introduction

- **Outline:**
- **I. The historic night with prophetic light, Chapters 1—6**
- **A.** Decline of Judah; fall of Jerusalem; Daniel taken captive to Babylon; his decision to be true to God, Chapter 1
- **B.** Dream of Nebuchadnezzar about a multimetallic image; interpretation by Daniel concerning the four kingdoms of “the times of the Gentiles,” Chapter 2
- **C.** Decree of Nebuchadnezzar to enforce universal idolatry; three Hebrews cast into the furnace for refusal to bow to image of gold, Chapter 3
- **D.** Dream of Nebuchadnezzar about a great tree hewn down to a stump; fulfilled in subsequent period of madness of the king, Chapter 4
- **E.** Downfall of Babylon foretold by Daniel as he read the handwriting on the wall at the feast of Belshazzar, Chapter 5
- **F.** Decree of Darius, the Median, to enforce worship of himself; Daniel cast into den of lions for praying to the God of heaven, Chapter 6.

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Introduction

- **Outline:**
- **II. The prophetic light in the historic night, Chapters 7—12**
- **A.** Daniel’s vision of four beasts concerning four kingdoms of “the times of the Gentiles,” Chapter 7
- **B.** Daniel’s vision of ram and he goat and another little horn, Chapter 8
- **C.** Daniel’s vision of seventy weeks concerning the nation Israel, Chapter 9
- **D.** Daniel’s vision relating to Israel in immediate future and latter days; historical little horn and little horn of the latter days, Chapters 10—12
 - **1.** Preparation for vision by prayer of Daniel; appearance of a heavenly messenger, Chapter 10
 - **2.** Prophecy concerning Persia and Greece, historical “little horn”; eschatological “little horn,” Chapter 11
 - **3.** Preview of Israel in latter days; Great Tribulation; resurrections; rewards; final word about the end times, Chapter 12

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