

CONCERNING DANIEL



There is more known about Daniel than any other of the Old Testament prophets. He was of the Tribe of Judah (Dan.1:6) and was of noble, if not royal blood (Dan.1:3-4) He was carried captive from Jerusalem in the third year of Jehoiakim, 606 B.C. in the first invasion of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar.

He was probably twenty years of age when he was taken to Babylon, and in a short time period he rose to a very high position in the Empire, which he held during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. At the death of Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel went into retirement and is not heard of again until he was summoned to pronounce the doom of Belshazzar (Dan. 5:1-31).

He lived through the entire period of the seventy year prophecy of the exile of Judah into captivity. He rose in positions of authority to become the “Chief President” over the 120 Satraps [*governors*] of the Kingdom (Dan.6:1-3) under Darius the Median, when he was at least ninety years old. He is the only spotless character in the Bible outside of Jesus Christ.

There was no flaw in his character. He was the man “greatly beloved” of God. He associated with kings and politicians. He led a public life. He talked with angels. The Lord Himself appeared to him and he had visions of God. He was a great man of faith, and though his name is not mentioned in the great “Faith Chapter” of Hebrews 11, he is referred to in it as one who “stopped the mouths of lions” (Heb.11:33).

INTRODUCTION

(Jer.27:4-8; II Kings 24)

We find within the Book of Daniel the beginning of **THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES**. It began with the carrying away of both Israel and Judah, both according to God’s dealings with His people. The Gentiles then came into the land and settled there for the next 73 years. The time of Israel’s restoration as a world power and Kingdom will not be until the Son of God comes back and sets up His Millennial Kingdom and Jerusalem will be its capital (Rev. 20:4-6).



(Approx. 586 B.C.)

In the time when the Kingdom of Judah willfully sinned and turned their back on God and embraced idolatry, God’s patience with them had run out. Judgement was about to fall on the House of Judah. The Lord rose up a prophet from among them who would speak His words to the people.

And the Word of the Lord came to the prophet Jeremiah saying,

Jeremiah 25:8-11 (NASB),⁸ “Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Because you have not obeyed My words,⁹ behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,’ declares the LORD, ‘and *I will send to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants and against all these nations round about; and I will utterly destroy them and make them a horror and a hissing, and an everlasting desolation.*¹⁰ Moreover, I will take from them the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp.¹¹ This whole land will be desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon **SEVENTY** years.



Nebuchadnezzar was the prince of Babylon following in the footsteps of his father King Nabopolassar. Nebuchadnezzar took his father’s army and came into the land of Israel and began to besiege the city of Jerusalem. It was during this initial siege of the city that King Nabopolassar died causing Nebuchadnezzar to return home quickly leaving his generals to finish the conquering of Jerusalem. It was in this time period that the first carrying away of the Jews happened, Daniel (who was 20 y.o.) and his companions was in this first initial group taken back to Babylon.

There were three sieges of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, 1st in 605 B.C., the 2nd in 597 B.C., and the 3rd in 587 B.C. (*dates are approximated*).¹ Daniel, and Ezekiel were teenagers² when they were carried off to Babylon and handed over to Ashpenaz the master of the eunuchs. They were to be made ready to work in the palace, to serve and to stand in front of the King.

According to Jeremiah, the Jewish people would be in Babylon for a period of seventy years.

Jeremiah 25:10-12 (NASB),¹⁰ “Moreover, I will take from them the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp.¹¹ This whole land will be desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.”

You may be questioning why seventy years of captivity? In a nutshell here is the reason for the seventy years ... the short version. Judah turned its back on their God and embraced idolatry. They also ignored God’s commandments in regards to the keeping of the Sabbath years. It was Israel’s failure to observe 70 Sabbath years coupled with their idolatry that caused them to go into captivity in Babylon. They were there to “atone” for the 70 Sabbath years that they had failed to observe. By the time Daniel c9 would come to pass Daniel would understand the 70

¹ 2 Kings 24:8-17, 2 Kings 25, Daniel 1:1-6

² See Appendix 3

years were almost finished. No wonder that it is here that we find Daniel repenting for the sins of his people in prayer to God.

Jeremiah 29:10 (NASB), "For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.'"