

Daniel 1.1-2

You Can Never Go Home Again!

Just IMAGINE > You R Young PERSON come From FAR AWAY LAND

Arriving here you Find Yourself in VERY DIFFERENT Foreign LAND

Forced to Quickly Learn NEW Language, Customs – EAT Different FOODS

New HOMELAND – Strong, Powerful NATION – Expects your Conformity

Old HOME feeling Farther & Father Away – Wondering if EVER Go home?

Trying to Work Out who you ARE, what you BELIEVE, how to LIVE Integrity

**Welcome to BEIJING! Welcome to the Book of DANIEL!**

Book of Daniel – Loved and Loathed – Familiar and Frightening

Well Known and Hardly Read – Comforting and Challenging

OPPOSITE Responses > partly 2 Different Halves of the Book

### The Book of Daniel

Focus	Judgment upon the Gentiles					Hope for the Jews			
Divisions	Daniel's Friends in the Furnace		Daniel's Faith in the Lion's Den			Beasts, Kings & Seventy Weeks		Previews of Israel's Future	
	1	3	4	6	7	9	10	12	
Topics	Convincing Gentiles of God's Power					Convincing Jews of god's Purpose			
	Daniel Interprets Other's Dreams					Angels Interpret Daniel's Dreams			
Place	Babylon & Persia								
Time	At Least 70 Years								
Author	The Prophet Daniel								

Message for ALL People

Convincing GENTILES of

God's POWER

Convincing JEWS of

God's PURPOSE

As we OPEN the Book of DANIEL we are REALLY Looking at an ENDING

Last Chapter of FINAL Book in the HEBREW Bible we read this Summary...

The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, until there was no remedy. Therefore he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or aged. He gave them all into his

hand. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon....  
2 Chronicles 36.15-18

## 1. We can be too Familiar with our Frightful God

Those HEBREWS Dragged away to BABYLON were SHOCKED

Thought were SAFE from HARM by Covenant with LORD GOD YAHWEH

### a. Conditional Covenant

Children of ABRAHAM grew COMPLACENT in their COZY Covenant

Knew they were CHOSEN PEOPLE in a BLESSED LAND > Enjoyed GIFTS

But FORGOT their Responsibility to GIVER of the GIFTS

the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you”

Genesis 17.1,2

ENJOYED the BLESSINGS but FORGOT the BLAMELESS Part

### b. Covenant Curses

Later MOSES Specifically WARNED > Homeland linked to their Holiness

Simple Formula of Old Covenant > Blessing? OBEY! Cursing? DISOBEY!

“If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase...I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. And I will remove harmful beasts from the land, and the sword shall not go through your land. You shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall chase ten thousand, and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. I will turn to you and make you fruitful and multiply you and will confirm my covenant with you...

“But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my

commandments, but break my covenant... if...you will not listen to me, but walk contrary to me, then I will walk contrary to you in fury, and I myself will discipline you sevenfold for your sins. You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters. And I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars and cast your dead bodies upon the dead bodies of your idols, and my soul will abhor you. And I will lay your cities waste and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your pleasing aromas. And I myself will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled at it. And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.

Leviticus 26.3-33

THIS is God of Bible, ONLY, TRUE God – Not God of our Wishful Imagination

God PERFECT in His Holiness, Justice, Righteousness, and WRATH

This is GOD and FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST – Our TRIUNE God

These PROPHETIC Words of MOSES > Describe MILLENNIUM of MERCY

God's Covenant People EXHAUSTED His Mercy, Brought Down His WRATH

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

Daniel 1.1

### c. Complete Christ

Seeing GRIM Picture of EXILE > Some “glad, I follow NT God, Kind, Patient”

Been DRIVING in West Coast of USA this Summer > Learning CAR Theology

Bumper Stickers declare FAITH of the Christian CAR OWNERS

Worst Drivers > “Christians are not Perfect, Just Forgiven!” Absolutely TRUE

Never Read – “Driving Toward the Judgment Seat of Christ”

“Meet me at the Great White Throne!” Or, “Even My Sins will Find Me Out!”

ONLY One True God – Genesis to Revelation – ETERNITY to ETERNITY

Daniel heard JEREMIAH preach while Babylon Breathing Down Judah's NECK

*"I will make a new covenant...I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*

Jeremiah 31.31-34

EZEKIEL carried off into EXILE with DANIEL & Homies, preached to Them

*I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

Ezekiel 36.24-27

Both Prophets LOOKED Forward to a NEW COVENANT Coming

Both LOOK for CLEANSING from SIN and a CHANGE within the SINNER

2-Fold Salvation: PROMISED by PROPHETS & PURCHASED by High Priest

JOHN the BAPTIST – Final Old Covenant Prophet – Saw FULFILLMENT...

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Matthew 3.11

Christ of Scriptures COMPLETE: Savior & Sanctifier > Cleanses & Changes

Pardons & Empowers – Baptizes with Holy Spirit and with Fire

you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption

1 Corinthians 1.30

But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6.11

NOT in OLD Conditional Covenant – We are in CHRIST – Took our CURSE

Have BATH & BORN Again – SAVED by SON, SANCTIFIED by SPIRIT

If OLD Covenant Saints had Reasons NOT to be TOO Familiar w/ Frightful God  
How much MORE are We in NEW Covenant RESPONSIBLE to Live for HIM

Book of Hebrews > Grand Theme “Jesus is Better” --- Once for All Salvation  
It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10.31

Heart Breaks 4 Young Man here Couple Years Ago > Professed Christian  
Met me Confessed Struggle w/ Pornography – Prayed – Accountable – Worse  
Every TIME we Met > Said Never Stopped > Deliberate Decision to Disobey  
Screen to Real Life: Pornography, Fornication, Living in Sin, LEAVING Church

Be CAREFUL when you FIND YOURSELF saying...

I know I am not supposed to \_\_\_\_\_ -- but I know God will forgive me!

Too Late? NOT YET! Still Live > Grows Harder in DECEITFULNESS of SIN

Even those of us who SAY We FOLLOW Christ...

We can be too Familiar with our Frightful God

## 2. We can be too Fearful of our Faithful God

WAS a Righteous REMNANT of Godly Hebrews > Hearts Broken by SINS  
OWN Sins and the Sins of their KINSMEN > Broken Hearted prayer of Daniel 9  
God is Strong, Mighty, and Deadly Serious about SIN > But LOVES Sinners  
OWN Son was BORN in the LIKENESS of SINFUL FLESH > Friend of Sinners

v. 2 *the Lord gave* Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand... 3 Surprising Words!  
Seems to FLY in the FACE of HISTORICAL Evidence > Maybe FAKE NEWS

vs. 1,2 – Places STORY in Context of WORLD HISTORY > BIG PICTURE

Hard to UNDERESTIMATE the DEVASTATION of the EXILE

Holy City of Jerusalem Destroyed – Temple Burned – Vessels Removed  
 gods of BABYLON apparently TRIUMPHED over the God of ISRAEL

Neb VIGOROUS Young King of NEWLY RISING Babylonian Empire  
 Time of Jerusalem SIEGE Not YET King of Babylon > Crown Prince led Army  
 Daniel 1 MAY Refer to Neb as KING in ANTICIPATORY Sense

Book does NOT ARGUE for Historical Events > Simply NARRATES Them  
 Babylon Built NEW Powerful Empire on RUINS of ASSYRIAN Empire  
 By Everyone's Evaluation – Neb was COLOSSAL, Jehoiakim CHUMP

3 Surprising Words > THE LORD GAVE - REVEAL Theme of DANIEL

The great and most important theme of Daniel is that there is but one God...and  
 that He is sovereign over the events of history. James Boice

Rise to Power of Neb NOT because of HIS POWER & PROWESS >> GOD

3 words in our English Text “the Lord delivered”

PAWN in the Hand NOT Jehoiakim > NEB in the Powerful Hand of GOD

EXILE was NOT a SET-BACK to God's Plan

Shocking STEPPING STONE to Perfect Unfolding of His Sovereign Plan

Early Christians coined term AD “anno dominis” – *in the year of our Lord* –

By FAITH – Small Numbers – Harassed & Hated – Persecution & Poverty

Jesus LIVES! So it was THEN and WILL BE Until he Returns – HIS YEAR!

Early Xtians had CONFIDENCE > Knew Greatest INJUSTICE in History  
 GREATEST TRAGEDY ever INFLICTED on Completely Innocent ONE

THE Righteous EXILE Abandoned in a Far, Away, FOREIGN LAND  
His HORRIBLE CROSS > ACHIEVED their REDEMPTION and RELEASE

“Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’— for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, *to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.* And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4.25-31

We MUST NOT be too Fearful of our Faithful God

Working All Things for OUR GOOD and HIS GLORY

Not one Sparrow Fall to the Ground without His PERMISSION

Not One Hair goes down the Shower Drain without God’s DAI’ZEN!

If the Lord is so diligent over his threats of judgment, surely he will treat his assurances of grace with the same exacting care. Dale Ralph Davis

3. We can Flounder when we Forget that God holds the Future

Chapter 1 is Distinct Literary Unit > Bookends are HISTORICAL Markers

v. 1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

v. 21 And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

When 70 yrs of Exile Prophesied by JEREMIAH Over: Daniel still serving GOD  
FAITHFUL SAVIOR kept his SERVANT FAITHFUL > Long Distance Runner

Daniel's main function is to reveal God to us, the readers. Tremper Longman III

That's why Daniel adds another STRANGE DETAIL in vs. 2....

v. 2 ....the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.

When saw TEMPLE Destroyed & LOOTED > Hearts were in DESPAIR

COSMIC Power Encounter > gods of BABYLON thumped God of the Bible

Isaiah's PROPHECY to King Hezekiah – Century or so Earlier - FULFILLED

Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the Lord of hosts: Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the Lord. And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."  
Isaiah 39.5-7

CONTRARY to what Foolish Hezekiah says it is NOT GOOD

CURSING of the COVENANT – JUDGEMENT on the NATION'S SIN

Play on Words here – LOOTED Articles – PRECIOUS VESSELS Taken Away  
MORE than GOLD & SILVER also dragged away their SONS & DAUGHTERS  
HEBREWS gone thru UNIMAGINABLE Loss > Family, Fortune, Future, Faith

SONS will be Threatened by GODLESS KING

VESSELS will be DESECRATED during an EVIL Party of another BAD KING

After EXILE Ended Ezra tells this DETAIL...

Cyrus the king also brought out the vessels of the house of the Lord that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and placed in the house of his gods.  
Ezra 1.7



FUTURE NOT Controlled by gods of Babylon > GOD of the BIBLE

70 ys ENDED Cyrus order God's VESSELS – People & Precious Metals - Home

Abraham Keliipio BIG MAN – Tall & Wide – Like Me

Member of church I pastored in Hilo, Hawaii

Told me Grew up on SMALL ISLAND in Hilo Bay

1960 TSUNAMI Hit Hilo – Much Destruction

MIGHTY Wave picked up Little Abe on his Island in the Bay

and Carried him Safely to Shore

1920's Church was Declining in parts Europe – Liberal thinking on the RISE

Some Young Producers of BBC predicted the END of Christian Faith Coming!

Must have been a HUSH over the Staff Meeting when BOSS DECLARED

'the Church will stand at the grave of the BBC'

Lord Reith, the BBC's first Director General

Church will stand at Grave of Every Human Empire & Institution

TRUE Power and Control > Not Always about Appearances

Sovereignty of God FAR SURPASSES the MIGHTIEST of Human RULERS

One of the Most Influential Theological Books ever Written > CITY OF GOD

Btwn 412 – 426 AD – Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, North Africa

Theological Explanation for the FALL of the ROMAN Empire

Contrasts City of GOD with City of MAN

Two cities have been formed by two loves: the earthly by the love of self, even to the contempt of God; the heavenly by the love of God, even to the contempt of self.  
Augustine

No One by NATURE belongs to CITY of God > All of us Born in City of Man  
 Many of us will DIE HERE

But some in this City of Man CALLED TO New Birth

Jesus: “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the  
 kingdom of God.” John 3.3

Repent of Loving Self > Repent of Contempt of God > MADE NEW in Christ

Not Yet ARRIVED of God’s City > Call to Believe in God’s Son

NOW our Home NOT what we LOOK BACK to but LOOK FORWARD To

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. Hebrews 11.13-16

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Daniel 1.<sup>1</sup>In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup>And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.

Elizabeth Elliot lost 2 Husbands >

Missionary Jim Elliot killed SUDDENLY on an ECUADOR River

Author Addison Leitch kill SLOWLY by Terrible DISEASE

JIM Eaten by Cannibals, ADDISON Eaten by Cancer

E > Interesting way of COMFORTING her HEART & CURBING her GRIEF

She said APOSTLES Creed helped her to ENDURE Pain of DOUBLE Loss

‘what things have not changed, even though my husbands have died’

Maybe YOU – Like Hebrews - Lost > Family, Fortune, Future, Faith

Stand TOGETHER here in Capital City of Most Populous Nations

Say what Christian AROUND the World saying on this LORD’S DAY

Remember MOST IMPORTANT things can NEVER CHANGE...