

BIBLE READING FOR 2023

WEEK #44

DANIEL

10-29-23

Monday - Daniel 1-2

Wednesday - Daniel 5-7

Friday - Daniel 10-12

Tuesday - Daniel 3-4

Thursday - Daniel 8-9

Daniel is the last book of the Major Prophets and covers the years from 606-536 B.C.. These scriptures give us some insight into life among the exiles in Babylon during the period of captivity and also important prophecies about specific Gentile nations and the coming of God's spiritual kingdom. There are a number of dreams and visions in this book and a lot of figurative language and symbolism is used. In light of that we need to be very careful when coming to an understanding of what is being said, and make sure that our explanation of those very difficult sections of Daniel are in harmony with other related passages of scripture that are more easily understood.

The author is Daniel himself. He was in the first group of captives taken to Babylon in 606 B.C. and was still there serving God as a prophet after Babylon fell to the Medes and the Persians in about 539 B.C.. It was during the first year of Cyrus king of Persia in 536 B.C. that the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1-4). Later Daniel received a vision from the Lord in the third year of the reign of Cyrus (Daniel 10:1). That would have been about 533 B.C. and is the last date we have in reference to Daniel's ministry. That means his book would not have been written before 533 B.C. and most likely not much later than that, since he would have been getting rather elderly and probably close to the end of his life by that time.

The message of the book of Daniel involved several important truths. First of all God expects His people to be faithful to him even under adverse circumstances. The lives of Daniel and his three friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego are good examples of this principle in action. Secondly that God is in control of the nations of man. God revealed to Daniel the rise and fall of four nations of men in chapter two, humbled Nebuchadnezzar in chapter four and punished Belshazzar with death in chapter five. Thirdly the coming of the church, God's kingdom was prophesied. Chapter two states that in the days of the fourth kingdom mentioned, which represented Rome, that God would establish His kingdom that would never be destroyed, as all the kingdoms of men eventually are.

An outline for Daniel: 1.) The history of Daniel and his friends 1-6
2.) Daniel's visions and prophecies 7-12

Questions for Daniel 1-12:

- 1.) In 1:7, who are the men that are talked about there and what new names were they given?
- 2.) Why did Daniel inform his three friends of what was about to happen in 2:17-18?
- 3.) What did Daniel's three friends tell the king in 3:18?
- 4.) In 7:17, what did the four beasts represent?

5.) What was Daniel reading and what did he discover in 9:2?

Answers to questions for Week #43 – Philemon, Hebrews and James:

1.) Paul told Philemon to charge anything that Onesimus owed him to Paul's account.

2.) God spoke to us in His Son and He made the world through Him.

3.) Hope.

4.) Disappear.

5.) If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.