

# A LOOK AT THE BOOK DANIEL

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## AUTHOR

Daniel's ministry was long—essentially the entire length of the Babylonian Empire + the beginning of the Persian Empire

Assume he was 20 years old when taken captive to Babylon

605–3rd year of Jehoiakim

536–3rd year of Cyrus

69 years of service

89 years old (at least)– not the days of Abraham and Moses when people lived over a 100 years!

Contemporary of Jeremiah and Ezekiel

Jeremiah– in the land

Ezekiel– in Babylonia (among the people)

Daniel– in the court (in Babylonia and then in Persia)

Daniel was NOT a clergyman.

Daniel was NOT a prophet.

Daniel was a POLITICIAN! 1:3-5

## BACKGROUND

Time of sorrow and captivity

Daniel loved God, His law, and His people.

Daniel wanted to see the salvation and restoration of God's people.

He does reveal this—but it's going to be a long-term project.

He is called on to reveal a program which will place Israel under subjection to gentile (pagan) nations for a long time (2500 years so far!)

## PURPOSE AND MESSAGE

Daniel reveals four purposes for writing:

1. To reveal God's program for His people.
2. To encourage His people in the midst of affliction.
3. To demonstrate God's control of history—even over pagan nations.
4. To motivate Israel to trust God and be faithful to Him.  
– Keeps their eyes on the right place in difficult times.

-We will never lack distractions-Satan wants to get our eyes off the Author of history and onto the problems of history.

## SUMMARY

### **THE FAITHFUL WILL ULTIMATELY TRIUMPH!**

<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>PROPHETICAL</b>
<b>1-6</b>	<b>7-12</b>
Historical evidence of God's control in history and the triumph of the faithful.	Prophetical evidence of God's control in history and the triumph of the faithful.

## HISTORY 1-6

6 EXAMPLES which demonstrate that God is able to control even the pagan governments of this world.

Each example contains certain common characteristics:

1. Conflict-
2. Faithfulness-
3. Triumph-
4. God is glorified-
5. Faithful is exalted-

## PROPHECY 7-12

After describing the six historical examples which demonstrate God's control over political events, even under pagan governments, Daniel moves on to present the program for the future.

He describes future events among the pagan nations and their results for Israel.

He describes the affliction Israel will suffer under Gentile dominion.

## GOD'S PROPHETIC PROGRAM FOR THE GENTILE NATIONS 7-8

### **Overview of the future program for Gentiles: Vision of the 4 Beasts 7**

*How does God's program for Israel relate to His program for pagan nations? Will they survive? How?*

### **Detailed view of the future program for Gentiles: Vision of the Ram and the Goat 8**

## GOD'S PROGRAM FOR ISRAEL IN THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES 9-12

<b>Daniel 9</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Vision of the 70 Week</b>
<b>Daniel 10-12</b>	<b>Specific details</b>	<b>Prophetic History of the 70 Weeks</b>

**What lessons do we learn about life today from the study of this book?**