

Book Study: “The Book of Daniel” or “Who Rules the World?” [Daniel 4.32, 37; 7.13-14, 27]

The Subject [Story] of the Book – Thematically

- Daniel is about world power [empires], kings and kingdoms [x248]. Israel has lost her *sovereignty* [exiled].
- To **Nebuchadnezzar**, “Thou, O king, *art* a king of kings” – head of gold [2]. “O king, thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth,” [4].
- But there is a King *greater* than Nebuchadnezzar – the King of Heaven [most High God]. Supreme, ultimate authority. **God** supervises nations and controls world affairs. He is sovereign in the kingdoms of men and He will establish a *universal* and *eternal* kingdom through the **Man**, Christ Jesus. See 7.13-14.

The Scene of the Book – Historically

- Daniel born during days of *Josiah*. Great Passover around time of his birth [623BC]. Things went downhill fast. Warned for idolatry, immorality, hypocrisy – offering sacrifices [pious] whilst practicing sin.
- Love for the Lord grown cold. Idols usurped their affections. “*Whatever a man depends upon, whatever rules his mind, whatever is the chief object of his delight, is his **god**.*” They disgraced His name. Exiled.
 - **606BC**. Beginning of captivity [70 yrs, Dan. 1.1]. Young nobles. Daniel exiled at this time [Jehoiakim].
 - **597BC**. Second invasion [2 Ki. 24]. Took gifted men, smiths, craftsmen, men of skill. Ezekiel [Jehoiachin].
 - **586BC**. Jerusalem destroyed [Zedekiah, 2 Ki. 25]. Mass of the people deported.
- Took 20 years to get away, 100 years to get back. The Devil targets the young, then the gifted. Scatters.
- Enter Daniel. In time of crisis, the kind of man God can use. A man *consecrated* to God. A man of *conviction*. A man of no *compromise* [in Babylon, not part of]. A man of *character* [righteousness].

The Setting of the Book – Biblically

- Major prophet. Isa. and Jer. ministered *in* the land. Eze. and Dan. *out* of the land. Two compounded with *Jah* [Jehovah]. Two with *El* – powerful, supreme God. What Israel had lost, God would restore.
- Rebuilt *city* [Ezekiel]. In God’s *calendar* [Daniel]. A new *covenant* [Jeremiah]. Because of the *cross* [Isaiah].
- Because God *judges* [Daniel], God is *strong* [Ezekiel]. Because *Jah raises up* [Jeremiah] and *saves* [Isaiah].

The Structure of the Book – Analytically

- **Bi-lateral**. Dan. 1-6 is **history** [secrets to kings]. Six triumphs. Dan. 7-12 is **prophecy** [secrets to Daniel].
- **Bi-lingual**. *Hebrew* [1.1-2.4] – preservation of four young Hebrews, then *Aramaic* [2.1-7.28], then *Hebrew*.
- God’s Programme for *Gentile* nations [Dan. 2-7]. Succession of **Gentile realms** under which Israel will be disciplined – the “times of Gentiles” [Luke 21.24]. Presented as a succession of four *metals* [or monsters].
- They will oppress the people of God. **But** true saints will remain faithful at all costs [Dan. 3, 6]. Ultimately, these Gentile kings will be humbled before God [Dan. 4, 5]. And He will establish His Kingdom. **Dan. 7.27.**
- God’s Programme for *Israel* [Dan. 7-12]. Reveals a *particular* **Gentile ruler**, bent on persecuting Israel. He is the **Antichrist**. Little Horn [Vision 1]. King of Fierce Countenance [2]. Coming Prince [3]. Wilful King [4].

The Saviour in the Book – Christologically

- Glimpses of a Man. Why a Man? Because it is to “man” [not angels] God has subjected the world to come.
- **Servant**. A man of *royal descent* [1.3]. As Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah. A man greatly *desired* – “greatly beloved” [delighted in, precious, valuable]. A man of *discernment* [wisdom].
- **Son of God** [3.25, with His people in the fire] and **Son of man** [7.13, eternal dominion].
- **Sovereign**, Man in linen [10.5; 12.6]. A “certain man” [*ish*] – of *highest* degree. *Great* man in comparison to *ordinary* men. Clothed in linen – He is a *Priest*. Loins girded “with fine gold of Uphaz” – He is a *King*.
- The *God* who is a *Man*, the *Priest* who is a *King* stands astride the Tigris – hands lifted to heaven – to swear by the living God. 3.5 years and all will be *finished*. Then, the wise will shine in kingdom of God forever.