

## DANIEL II

### (Book of Daniel)

Daniel is one of the most remarkable people in the Old Testament. His writings contain some of the most important prophecies, especially about the coming of the new kingdom.

When the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem and forced thousands of captives to go into exile in Babylon, Daniel was a young man who was part of that group. Of royal birth, he was one of 4 outstanding young men chosen by the Babylonian king to receive intensive training for service in the king's palace.

The terrible disappointment of being taken captive and removed to a distant land had not destroyed the faith of these young men. They insisted on not eating food which, according to Jewish law, would have defiled them. God blessed them in becoming the most wise and outstanding of all those in the king's service.

The book of Daniel contains some remarkable stories. One involved the ability of Daniel to interpret the dreams of Nebuchadnezzar, one of which referred to coming kingdoms, including the kingdom during which the Lord's kingdom (the church) would be established.

Another story was about a golden image, 90 feet high, which Nebuchadnezzar built, ordering everyone to bow down and worship it. Jealous officials reported the failure of the 3 young men (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) to bow before this idol. They were condemned to be thrown into a fiery furnace. Everyone knows the outcome as the Lord provided a dramatic rescue.

One dream of Nebuchadnezzar was about a time when God would remove him from power and drive him out to live in the wild until he came to a full recognition of God's power and sovereignty.

Under a later king, Darius, the enemies of Daniel plotted to get Daniel into trouble. They persuaded the king to forbid anyone to pray to any god or person except the king for 30 days. Anyone violating this law was to be thrown into a den of lions. Knowing Daniel's praying habits, his enemies caught him and reported him to the king, resulting in his being thrown into a den of lions. The result is well known as the Lord protected Daniel. (The lions got a big feast that day---but it consisted of Daniel's enemies...not Daniel).

The last chapters of Daniel contain a great deal of prophetic material which must be part of a separate study.