

Daniel

Introduction information

Much of this introductory information taken word-by-word from Taskers commentary

The History of Israel.

a. The United Kingdom

- ☐ Under David.
- ☐ David sins.
- ☐ Infighting.
- ☐ Solomon unites and an age of glory.

b. The Divided Kingdom

- ☐ After Solomons death.
- ☐ Rehoboam vs. Jeroboam.
- ☐ "Israel" in the North. (All other tribes)
- ☐ "Judah" in the South. (Tribe of Judah/Benjamin)

c. Egypt

- Was always a power of sorts (at one time the most powerful). Often times Israel would seek to ally with Egypt because of the other threats.

d. Assyrian

- For nearly 300 years before Daniels time, Assyria dominated the Middle East. Called the Neo-Assyrian Period (900-612 bc). They established vassal states and enacted tribute from them. Outlying areas (Syria) repeatedly tried to rebel against them. The Babylonians were also a part of Assyria's control, though they tried to gain their independence during this time.
- During the reign of Tiglath-pileser III (745-727bc), Assyria strengthened its control over the region. He invaded Israel during the time of 734-732 (2 Kings 15:29). He ultimately would take over personal control of Babylon.
- Under Shalmaneser V (727-722), Assyria sieged the city of Samaria (722bc), which was the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Samaria would fall to the Assyrians and result in thousands of Israelites being deported. This marked the collapse of the northern kingdom which was predicted by Isaiah, as God's discipline on them for breaking the Covenant (Deut 28-30).
- Under Sennacherib (705-681), Nineveh became Assyria's capitol city. It would become one of the architectural wonders of the world. During Sennacherib's reign the Babylonians again tried to rebel against Assyria but its king was defeated near Kish in 703bc. Sennacherib then plundered Babylon, deported 208,000 prisoners to Ninevah and set up his own ruler who was his friend (Bel-ibni). Babylon continue to resist Assyria to the point where Sennacherib sacked the city of Babylon itself in 689bc). At this time, the statue of the god Marduk (Babylon's national God) was carried off to Assyria. Because of this, the Babylonian's hated the Assyrians continuing on for another 80 years until Babylon eventually defeated Assura late in the 7th century bc.
- Assyria began to weaken under Ashurbanipal (669-627). During this time Babylonians unsuccessfully repeated tried to rebel. Assyria would slowly lose territory.
- By 626 the Chaldean Nabopolassar had won independence for Babylon and he was recognized as king, though not accepted or recognized by Assyria. He would eventually conquer Ninevah. He was the father of Nebuchadnezzar who inevitably becomes king and is king during the book of Daniel.

e. Babylonian (605-539)

- ☐ Under **Nabopolassar**, a new dynasty began, generally referred to as the Neo-Babylonian or Chaldean Period. He would gain more territory from the Assyrians, eventually conquering them (as above). In fulfillment of the book of Nahum, Ninevah fell to the combined forces of the Medes and the Babylonians in 612bc. A portion of the Assyrian army tried to withdraw, hoping to be supported by their Egyptian allies under Pharoah Neco II. This would lead to the defeat of both the Assyrians and the Egyptians at Harran (609bc) and the Egyptians at Carchemish in 605bc. These victories established Babylon as the dominant world power of hat day and set the sage for Judah's exile to Babylon.
- ☐ **Nebuchadnezzar** gained a great victory in the battle at Carchemish in 605 boc and the kingdom of Judah became a victim in a major international shakeup.

f. Persian (539-331)

- ☐ S

g. Greece (331bc-146bc)

h. Rome (146bc-476ad)

The last kings of Judah before Exile:

1. **Josiah** (641bc-609bc)

- ☐ Reigned 31 years (2 Kng 22:1).
- ☐ Good king, “doing right in the sight of the Lord”. Tried to implement reform in Israel. IN his 12th year he began to purge the land of evil and idolatry. During his 18th year, the book of the Law was found, having been neglected by the previous evil kings of Manasse and Amon. Tried to the turn the nation back to Yahweh. Unfortunately, though he did right in the sigh of the Lord (2 ings 22:2) and was credited with removing much of the occultic monuments in the land (2 Kg. 23:24), attempting to turn the nation back to the Word of God (2 King. 23:25), but the Lord would still carry out His punishment that He swore under Menasseh and Amon.
- ☐ Jeremiah ministered under Josiah and those following.
- ☐ The time was ripe for the southern kingdom to now suffer the same fate as the northern kingdom.
- ☐ During His reign, a fierce competition for control of the Middle East broke out between the three major empires of the day, namely Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon. As Assyria’s domination of the Middle East was nearing its end, Babylon and Egypt attempted to grab what power they could. Even after the fall of Ninevah (Assyria’s capital), the Assyrian army still survived and struggled to continue on.
- ☐ In 609 BC Pharaoh Necho II of Egypt, responding to an urgent appeal from Assurballit of Assyria, marched northward through Judah on his way to Haran to deliver his ally from an approaching Babylonian military army. Joseiah, however, attempted to intervene against the Egyptians and was killed (2 King 23:29). So died this good king.

2. **Jehoahaz** (reigned from July 609—October 609bc)

- ☐ Was made king when Josiah died by “the people of the land” (2 Kg 23:30) but was removed 3 months later by Egypts Pharoah Necho (2 King 23:31/2 Chr. 36:2). He was taken away into exile to Egypt (2 King 23:33/2 Chr. 36:4/Jer. 22:10-12).

3. Jehoiakim (Reigned from 609bc-598bc)

- 25 when he became king. 11 year reign (2 King 23:36). The second son of Josiah (1 Chr. 3:15). Given name was Eliakim, but given the throne name of Jehoiakim by Pharaoh Necho (Egypt).
- He was the ruling king of Judah when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem in 605bc when Daniel and his friends were taken away into exile in Babylon. During this time Egypt was able to hold sway in Palestine during 609-605. During this time, Jehoiakim remained subject to Egypt's Pharaoh Necho. Judah was a vassal state of Egypt and forced to pay heavy tribute to Egypt.
- But in 605 BC, Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon) who was the commander of the armies of Babylon at this time, turned to the last remaining Assyrian stronghold in Carchemish. He conquered Assyria there and then forced Egypt to withdraw from northern Syria.
- Nebuchadnezzar then pursued the Egyptian forces toward Egypt. It was at this time he laid siege to Jerusalem, forced the Jews to pay tribute and took prisoners, including Daniel.
- From 605 BC onward, Jerusalem was subject to Babylon and incorporated into the Babylonian Empire. Tribute that previously went to Egypt now went to Babylon.
- Nabopolassar (Nebuchadnezzar's father) died unexpectedly at this time (Aug. 605) and Nebuchadnezzar had to rush back to Babylon (Sept 605). He remained there until the turn of the year.
- For the next three years (605-602), Jehoiakim remained a loyal subject of Babylon. But he then attempted to rebel (2 Kings 24) for some reason (unknown). Retribution was swift and sure (2 King. 24:1-2). Nebuchadnezzar sent troops from Babylonia and from some of his western vassal states such as Aram, Moab, and Ammon, and forced Jehoiakim to submit. Taken captive as a prisoner of war (2 Chr. 36:6). At some point he relented but still punished Judah by stripping the temple of many of its sacred articles and took them to his own pagan temples in Babylon.
- In 601, Nebuchadnezzar fought Necho II in a great battle near the border of Egypt. This ended in a draw and tempted Judah to free herself from Babylon and seek an alliance with Egypt.
- Thereafter, until his death in 598bc. Jehoiakim remained in subservience to the Babylonian overlord (Nebu).
- In 599-598 Nebuchadnezzar marched into northern Syria but before he could take Jerusalem, Jehoiakim died (Dec. 598).

4. Jehoiachin (Reigned from Dec 598bc—March 597bc.) [Jeconiah and Coniah)

- ☐ He was 18 years old when he became king but only reigned 3 months (with Babylonian records and the biblical account we know this with certainty).
- ☐ In March of 597bc, Nebuchadnezzar took Jerusalem from Jehoiachin and set up Zekeiah as king (another son of Josiah)
- ☐ Jehoiachin, his family, and all his people (military, craftsman, statesmen) were taken captive to Babylon (a SECOND DEPORTATION).
- ☐ The total number was 10,000 (2 K 24:14)
- ☐ Ezekiel was also was deported at this time (2 K 24:13).
- ☐ Although Jerusalem was spared, a heavy tribute was taken, including the treasures from Solomons temple and the royal palace (2 K 24;13).
- ☐ Jehoiachin remained a captive in Babylon for years but was eventually released from prison on April 2 561 BC (2 K 25:27-30)

5. Zedekiah (April 597—Aug. 586bc).

- ☐ Jehoiachin's Uncle.
- ☐ Was made king of Judah (2 K 24:17-20)
- ☐ He reigned for 11 years.
- ☐ Ended with his rebellion against Babylon.
- ☐ As a result, Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem one final time (lasted thirty months) and eventually destroyed the city.
- ☐ Jerusalem fell on July 18 586BC.
- ☐ At this point Daniel had been in Babylon for almost 19 years and was serving as an important official in Nebuchadnezzars court.
- ☐ Not only was Jerusalem destroyed, but the temple of Solomon (which had been built about 960bc) was completely destroyed. This was the lowest point in the nations history (see Lamentations) and must have come as very disheartening news to Daniel and his companions in Babylon.
- ☐ The prophet **Jeremiah** lived through all these terrible events in Jerusalem and witnessed the destruction of 586bc.

There were **3 major deportations of Jews** to exile in Babylon.

- 1) 605 BC. Only nobility and leading youths are taken. **Daniel** and his companions among them.
- 2) 597 BC. As a response to Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin's rebellion, about 10,000 captives were taken to Babylon, including **Ezekiel** (Ezek. 1:1-3; 2 K 24:8-20:2; 2 Chr. 36:6-10).
- 3) 586 BC. Zedekiah's rebellion brought the final siege, which culminated in 586 bc with the city and temple being destroyed and many Jews being killed. Many more who were not killed were deported to Babylon (2 K 25:1-7; Jer. 34:1-7; 39:1-7; 52:2-11).

Introductory Notes

☐ Books Purpose:

- ✓ “To demonstrate that God is sovereignly in control of the nations under whom Israel is being disciplined until the time comes when He will bring in Messiah’s kingdom, and that Israel will ultimately be restored and blessed in His kingdom after she has first undergone tribulation and sufferings imposed by the antichrist.” Tanner.

☐ Date and Authorship:

- ✓ The “most controversial subject of study today pertaining to the book” Tanner.
- ✓ “The reference to the third year of Cyrus in Dan 10:1 about 536/35bc is the last mentioned event involving the person of Daniel, and this would suggest that the book was written shortly after this final vision given to Daniel.” Tanner.
- ✓ Some say it was written during the Maccabean age (200bc).
- ✓ “The whole issue is not merely an academic discussion, as there is a lot riding on the verdict. If the book purports to be written by Daniel in the 6th century bc but in reality is vaticinium ex eventu (Prophecy after the fact), then this calls into question the integrity of the Bible and its trustworthiness.” Tanner.
- ✓ The book CLEARLY portrays Daniel as its author (6th century bc). (8:1, 27; 9:2; 10:2; 12:5).
- ✓ Daniel is charged with the care of this book in Daniel 12:4
- ✓ Writing in the 3rd person about oneself is not uncommon in ancient writings.
- ✓ Jesus ascribes the writing of Daniel to Daniel (Matt 24:15-16). “THROUGH Daniel the prophet.”
- ✓ The Dead Sea Scrolls suggest a date well before the Maccabean era.
- ✓ See others pg. 74ff in Tanner.

☐ “Chapters 2-6 are primarily (though not exclusively) historical, the focus being on God’s dealing with kingdoms in Daniel’s lifetime.

☐ Chapters 8-12 are primarily future-oriented, the focus being on matters that went beyond the lifetime of Daniel (viz, the days of Antiochus IV Epiphanes and the more distant future period of the antichrist). Chapter 7, however, belongs to both.” Tanner

- Ch. 2-7 emphasizes the Gentile nations.
 - ✓ “Which would explain why these chapters were written in Aramaic, the lingua franca of the Gentile world in Daniels day.” Tanner.
- Ch. 7-12 mainly Israel.
- Chronology: “The way in which dates are noted in Chs 7-10 differs from the way they are noted in ch. 1 and 2. Chapters 1 and 2 have only these two notices.
 1. 1:1 “In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah”
 2. 2:1 “Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar”
 - ★ “But in chapters 7-10 a date notice heads every major unit in the section....(7:1; 8:1; 9:1-2).”
 - ★ “This seems to be significant because Chapters 2-7 are not strictly arranged chronologically (ch. 6 concerns the time of Darius, ch. 7 relates to the earlier time of Belshazzars kingdom).”
 - ★ “Whereas the visions of chapters 7-12 are arranged in precise chronological order.”
- Narration:
 - A. Ch. 1-6 3rd person (“But Daniel made up his mind...”
 - B. Ch. 7 Technically in the 3rd person, practically in the first (7:1-2)
 - C. Ch. 8-12 1st person.
- Alleged Historical inaccuracies
 1. Dan 1:1. The 3rd year of Jehoiakim. Jer. 25:1 and 46:2 say it occurred in Jehoiaims 4th year. “Does not necessarily indicate a historical error or contradiction. One must take into account that calendar systems and methods of dating were different in the ANE from that used today (for them, a year did not begin on Jan. 1). Furthermore, there was not a uniform system used throughout the ANE or even within Israel itself.” Tanner. See Tanner pg. 42 for graph on reconciling the difference.
 2. Daniels reference to Darius in 5:31—confusion with Darius I (Pg 43ff tanner)
 3. See Tanner pg 44ff for more.

- “Dan 7 stands out as unique in the book. Through these numerous literary techniques the author was highlighting this chapter for the readers attention. IN some instances it is linked with ch. 2-6 while in other instances with chapters 8-12. Thus chapter 7 is a “huge” chapter to the book.” Tanner