

DANIEL: THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

**(An Introduction to the
Book of Daniel)**

Daniel

I. Date

“As to the date of the composition of Daniel, the narrative of the prophet’s earliest experiences begins with his capture as a hostage by Nebuchadnezzar back in 605-604 B.C. and according to Dan. 1:21 continues certainly till the first year of Cyrus (c. 537 B.C.), in relation to his public service, and to the third year of Cyrus (535 B.C.), in relation to his prophetic ministry (Dan. 10:1). Daniel seems to have revised and completed his memoirs during his retirement sometime about 532 or 530 B.C. when he would have been close to ninety years old (assuming his birth c. 620 B.C.)....

Daniel

I. Date

“The appearance of Persian-derived governmental terms, even in the earlier chapters composed in Aramaic, strongly suggests that these chapters were given their final form after Persian had become the official language of government” (Gleason Archer).

Daniel

I. Date

II. Author

- Daniel

Daniel

I. Date

II. Author

III. Place Written

- **From Babylon**

Daniel

I. Date

II. Author

III. Place Written

IV. Theme

- **The Sovereignty of God**

Daniel

I. Date

II. Author

III. Place Written

IV. Theme

V. Purpose

- **To show God's sovereignty over the affairs of men, as well as His sovereign plan for the Gentiles and Israel.**

Daniel

I. Date

II. Author

III. Place Written

IV. Theme

V. Purpose

VI. Literary Form

- **“Apocalyptic literature”**

Daniel

I. Date

II. Author

III. Place Written

IV. Theme

V. Purpose

VI. Literary Form

**VII. The Book's Place in the
Hebrew Bible**

- **“The Writings”**

Daniel

VIII. Background of the Book

- Because of her sin, the Northern Kingdom (Israel) was taken captive by the Assyrians in 722 B.C.
- Because of her sin, the Southern Kingdom (Judah) was taken captive by the Babylonians in three stages (deportations):

605 BC

597 BC

586 BC

Daniel

VIII. Background of the Book

IX. Divisions of the Book

- **The book of Daniel lays out the course of the “times of the Gentiles.”**

I. Introduction (1:1 – 2:4)

II. God's Sovereignty as Seen in the Prophetic History of the Gentiles During the Times of the Gentiles (2:4 – 7:28)

- This section of the book is in Aramaic. The rest of the book was written in Hebrew. Aramaic was the standard language for communication in that day. It was the language of the Gentile world. Hebrew, on the other hand, was the language of God's covenant people. The theme of this section, as contrasted with the next section, explains the abrupt change in languages.

III. God's Sovereignty as Seen in the Prophetic History of Israel During the Times of the Gentiles (8:1 – 12:13)

Daniel

X. Importance of the Book

Walvoord:

“The book of Daniel, more than any other book in the Old Testament, revealed very specific prophecies concerning the future, so specific that those who believed that prophecy of the future was impossible have been forced to try to put the record of Daniel after the event....An outstanding illustration of detailed prophecy is Daniel 11:1-35, containing over 100 specific prophecies, all of which have been fulfilled.

Walvoord:

“Because so many of Daniel’s prophecies have already been literally fulfilled, it gives substantial basis for faith that the prophecies not yet fulfilled will have the same literal fulfillment in God’s time. Accordingly, the book of Daniel is not only important as a key to understanding the past in God’s sovereign control of both Gentile and Jewish history but also gives insight concerning the future, and in particular helps to understand the symbolism in the book of Revelation.

Walvoord:

“In most respects, Daniel gave the most comprehensive and detailed picture of the times of the Gentiles of any book of the Bible as well as the future history of Israel from Daniel’s time to the second coming of Christ. Accordingly, the book of Daniel is the **KEY TO PROPHETIC INTERPRETATION** [emphasis mine], and proper understanding of its revelation would do much to help the interpretation of other prophetic portions.”