

The Scriptures Summarized / Book 27 — Daniel

The book of Daniel reads as a first person memoir of a Jewish man's life and ministry as a government official and a Jewish prophet. His precisely detailed and yet perfectly fulfilled prophecies cause skeptics to believe the book was written after the fact. Jesus removes all doubt by attributing this prophesy directly to him.

Matt. 24:15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—

Daniel, whose Hebrew name means “judged by God,” was part of the first Babylonian exile of Jewish nobility. Yet, Daniel himself was considered “highly esteemed” by God (**9:23**). Ezekiel also recognizes Daniel as a godly and distinguished literal person.

Daniel was evaluated as having intellectual ability and leadership potential. Thus, he and other captives were chosen to be taught and trained in the language, literature and customs of the Chaldeans. Part of this indoctrination was new names honoring pagan deities. Additionally, these young men were to be fed from the King's own table.

Daniel led another three Jewish captives to avoid this pagan defilement from non-kosher food and wine. God honored their desire with favor from their supervisors. He also honored their dedication with royal recognition and promotion when inspected.

Daniel spends his entire 60 + years of public service assisting several Gentile administrations. He developed a good reputation as an honest, capable, trustworthy, moral, ethical and spiritual man (**6:3-5**).

Half of the book is written in third person Aramaic as historical narratives while the remainder is written in first person as Hebrew prophecy.

The scope of the book is vast. It's prophecies details the times of the Gentiles which began at the captivity and continues on to this day. However, the book demonstrates that God rules supreme and thus sovereignly controls human history!

I. What this truth meant for him (Daniel) personally (1)

- A. Political Circumstances were beyond his control
- B. Personal Convictions were within his control
- C. Practical Consequences were left to Sovereign Control

II. What this truth meant for the heathen politically (2-6)

- A. The Precise Order of World Powers is Communicated - 2
- B. The Pressured Oppression of World Powers is Contested - 3
- C. The Proud Offense of World Powers is Corrected - 4
- D. The Predicted Overthrow of World Powers is Chronicled - 5
- E. The Perverse Opposition of World Powers is Conquered - 6

III. What this truth meant for the Hebrews prophetically (7-12)

- A. The Fierce Characteristics of Gentile Empires - 7
- B. The Feuding Competition of Gentile Empires - 8
- C. The Future Countdown of Gentile Empires - 9
- D. The Final Conflict of Gentile Empires - 10
- E. The Forecasted Calendar of Gentile Empires - 11
- F. The Foregone Conclusion of Gentile Empires - 12