

Purpose

To give a historical account of the faithful Jews who lived in captivity and to show how God is in control of heaven and earth

Meaning of Name

"God is judge"

Date Written

Approx. 536 BC, events from about 605-536 BC

Setting

Daniel had been deported to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC. There he served for 70 years during the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, and Cyrus.

Key Verse

"God reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though He Himself is surrounded by light."

Daniel 2:22

Key People

Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Belshazzar, and Darius

Special Features

Daniel's apocalyptic visions, (Chapters 7-12) give a glimpse of God's plan for the ages, including a direct prediction of the Messiah.

An Overview (12 Chapters)

- Daniel's Life (1:1-6:28)
- Daniel's Visions (7:1-12:13)

Major Themes

- *God Is in Control:* God is all-knowing and He is in charge of world events. God overrules and removes rebellious leaders who defy Him. God will overcome evil; no one is exempt; but He will deliver the faithful who follow Him.
- *Purpose in Life:* Daniel and his three friends are examples of dedication and commitment. They determined to serve God regardless of the consequences. They did not give in to the pressures from an ungodly society because they had a clear purpose in life.
- *Perseverance:* Daniel served for 70 years in a foreign land that was hostile to God, yet he did not compromise his faith in God. He was truthful, persistent in prayer, and disinterested in power for personal glory.
- *God's Faithfulness:* God was faithful in Daniel's life. He delivered him from prison, from a den of lion's, and from enemies who hated him. God cares for His people and deals patiently with them.