

~DANIEL 2 (471)

(Dan'i-el) [My Judge Is God]

- Under Babylonian Rule
- Nebuchadnezzar's Dreams
- Visions
- Under Medo-Persian Rule
- Daniel's Writership

- An outstanding prophet of Yehowah of the tribe of Judah. The writer of the book bearing his name. Very little is known of his early life, but he tells of being taken to Babylon, likely as a teenage prince, along with other royal offspring and nobles.
- Then the king said to Ashpenaz his chief court official to bring some of the sons of Israel and of the royal offspring and of the nobles. (Daniel 1:3)
- Children in whom there was no defect at all, but good in appearance and having insight into all wisdom and being acquainted with knowledge, and having discernment of what is known, in whom also there was ability to stand in the palace of the king, and to teach them the writing and the tongue of the Chaldeans. (Daniel 1:4)
- Furthermore, to them the king appointed a daily allowance from the delicacies of the king and from his drinking wine, even to nourish them for three years, that at the end of these they might stand before the king. (Daniel 1:5)
- Now there happened to be among them some of the sons of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. (Daniel 1:6)
- This was in Jehoiakim's third year, as tributary king to Babylon, which third year started in the spring of 618 B.C.E.
- In the third year of the kingship of Jehoiakim the king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and proceeded to lay siege to it. (Daniel 1:1)
- With Jehoiakim's inglorious death, Jehoiachin, his son, ruled for a few months before surrendering. Early in 617 B.C.E, Jehoiachin and other foremost men, also young Daniel

- Thus he took Jehoiachin into exile to Babylon, and the king's mother and the king's wives and his court officials and the foremost men of the land he led away as exiled people from Jerusalem to Babylon. (2 Kings 24:15)
- Were taken into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar.

· Under Babylonian Rule

- While many of the exiles were located by the river Chebar outside the city of Babylon, **Daniel** and his three companions were selected to receive special training in the writing and the tongue of the Chaldeans to equip them for governmental service. In accord with custom, they were given Babylonian names, **Daniel's** being **Belteshazzar**, according to the name of Nebuchadnezzar's god.
- And to them the principal court official went assigning names. So he assigned to **Daniel** the name of **Belteshazzar**, and to Hananiah, Shadrach, and to Mishaël, Meshach, and to Azariah, Abednego. (Daniel 1:7)
- And at last there came in before me **Daniel**, whose name is **Belteshazzar** according to the name of my god and in whom there is the spirit of the holy gods, and before him I said what the dream was. (Daniel 4:8)
- Not wishing to pollute himself with the foods allotted, which might include some prohibited by the Mosaic Law or defiled by pagan rituals, he made request that their diet be limited to vegetables and water.
- Yehowah God gave them **knowledge and insight in all writing and wisdom**. **Daniel** himself had understanding in all sorts of visions and dreams.
- And as for these children, the four of them, to them the true God gave knowledge and insight in all writing and wisdom, and **Daniel** himself had understanding in all sorts of visions and dreams. (Daniel 1:17)
- Examined by the king at the end of three years, they were found to be ten times better than all the magic-practicing priests and the conjurers that were in all his royal realm.

- And as regards every matter of wisdom and understanding that the king inquired about from them, he even got to find them ten times better than all the magic-practicing priests and the conjurers that were in all his royal realm. ([Daniel 1:20](#))

See Also BELTESHAZZAR

- **Daniel** continued in court service until the fall of Babylon.
- And the king began to speak with them, and out of them all no one was found like **Daniel**, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, and they continued to stand before the king. ([Daniel 1:19](#))
- It is stated that his three companions also continued to stand before the king of Babylon. Whether they lived to hold this position until Babylon's fall is not stated, but **Daniel** did, and after this he was in the Persian court until at least the third year of Cyrus.
- In the third year of Cyrus the king of Persia there was a matter revealed to **Daniel**, whose name was called Belteshazzar, and the matter was true, and there was a great military service. And he understood the matter, and he had understanding in the thing seen. ([Daniel 10:1](#))

•• Nebuchadnezzar's Dreams

- In Nebuchadnezzar's second year, probably dating from Jerusalem's overthrow in, [607 B.C.E](#), he has a dream that agitates his spirit.
- All the wise men being unable to reveal it, **Daniel** comes before the king and not only tells him the dream, by divine revelation, but interprets it, thereby saving himself and the other wise men from execution. This prompts Nebuchadnezzar to make **Daniel** ruler over all the jurisdictional district of Babylon and the chief prefect over all the wise men.
- Consequently the king made **Daniel** someone great, and many big gifts he gave to him, and he made him the ruler over all the jurisdictional district of Babylon and the chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. ([Daniel 2:48](#))

- His three companions receive high positions outside the court, while **Daniel** serves in the court of the king.
- Just why **Daniel** was not also involved in the issue of integrity encountered by his companions, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, when commanded to worship the golden image set up in the Plain of Dura, is not certain. (**Daniel Chapter 3**)
- The Bible is silent on the matter. **Daniel's** previous course as well as his later loyalty to God even in danger of death, as described in (**Daniel Chapter 6**), provides full assurance that, if present, and whatever the circumstances, Daniel did not compromise by bowing before the image. Also, Yehowah's Word expresses his approval of **Daniel** as wholly devoted, listing him alongside Noah and Job.
- And had these three men proved to be in the midst of it, Noah, **Daniel** and Job, they themselves because of their righteousness would deliver their soul, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. (**Ezekiel 14:14**)
- Even were Noah, **Daniel** and Job in the midst of it, as I am alive, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, neither son nor daughter would they deliver, they themselves because of their righteousness would deliver their soul. (**Ezekiel 14:20**)
- Therefore, when you catch sight of the disgusting thing that causes desolation, as spoken of through **Daniel** the prophet, standing in a holy place, let the reader use discernment. (**Matthew 24:15**)
- And what more shall I say? For the time will fail me if I go on to relate about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David as well as Samuel and the other prophets. (**Hebrews 11:32**)
- Who through faith defeated kingdoms in conflict, effected righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions. (**Hebrews 11:33**)
- Later **Daniel** interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream, regarding the immense tree that was cut down and then allowed to sprout again, as representing the great Babylonian monarch himself, in the prophecy's first fulfillment.
- The tree that you beheld, that grew great and became strong and

- the height of which finally reached the heavens and which was visible to all the earth. ([Daniel 4:20](#))
- And the foliage of which was fair, and the fruit of which was abundant, and on which there was food for all, under which the beasts of the field would dwell, and on the boughs of which the birds of the heavens would reside. ([Daniel 4:21](#))
- It is you, O king, because you have grown great and become strong, and your grandeur has grown great and reached to the heavens, and your rulership to the extremity of the earth. ([Daniel 4:22](#))
- Nebuchadnezzar would be insane for seven years and then would regain his sanity and his kingdom. Nebuchadnezzar confirmed the fulfillment of the divinely sent dream upon himself, for he saw fit to publicize the occurrence throughout the realm.
- Nebuchadnezzar the king, to all the peoples, national groups and languages that are dwelling in all the earth. May your peace grow great. ([Daniel 4:1](#))
- The signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed with me, it has seemed good to me to declare. ([Daniel 4:2](#))

.. Visions

- During the first and third years of Belshazzar, **Daniel** received two visions. ([Daniel Chapters 7,8](#)), in which various animals represented successive world powers, leading to the time when these would be forcefully broken up and the heavenly rulership would be given to **someone like a son of man**.
- I kept on beholding at that time because of the sound of the grandiose words that the horn was speaking; I kept on beholding until the beast was killed and its body was destroyed and it was given to the burning fire. ([Daniel 7:11](#))
- But as for the rest of the beasts, their rulerships were taken away, and there was a lengthening in life given to them for a time and a season. ([Daniel 7:12](#))
- I kept on beholding in the visions of the night, and, see there! with the clouds of the heavens someone like a son of man

happened to be coming, and to the Ancient of Days he gained access, and they brought him up close even before that One. (Daniel 7:13)

- And to him there were given rulership and dignity and kingdom, that the peoples, national groups and languages should all serve even him. His rulership is an indefinitely lasting rulership that will not pass away, and his kingdom one that will not be brought to ruin. (Daniel 7:14)
- Whether **Daniel** was actually in Shushan when he received the vision recorded in (Daniel Chapter 8), or saw himself there in vision, is not certain.
- It appears that for many years after Nebuchadnezzar's death **Daniel** was used little, if at all, as counselor, so that the queen, likely the queen mother found it necessary to bring him to Belshazzar's attention when none of the wise men were able to interpret the ominous handwriting on the palace wall at the time of Belshazzar's riotous and blasphemous feast.
- As promised, they heralded concerning **Daniel** that he was to become the third ruler in the kingdom, Nabonidus being first ruler and his son Belshazzar being second. That same night the city fell to the Medes and Persians, and Belshazzar was slain.
- As regards Belshazzar the king, he made a big feast for a thousand of his grandees, and in front of the thousand he was drinking wine. (Daniel 5:1)
- As regards the queen, because of the words of the king and his grandees she entered right into the banqueting hall. The queen answered and said; O king, keep living even to times indefinite. Do not let your thoughts frighten you, nor let your complexion be changed. (Daniel 5:10)
- There exists a capable man in your kingdom in whom there is the spirit of holy gods, and in the days of your father illumination and insight and wisdom like the wisdom of gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar your father himself set him up as chief of the magic-practicing priests, the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the astrologers, even your father, O king. (Daniel 5:11)
- Forasmuch as an extraordinary spirit and knowledge and insight

to interpret dreams and the explanation of riddles and the untying of knots had been found in him, in **Daniel**, whom the king himself named Belteshazzar. Now let **Daniel** himself be called, that he may show the very interpretation. (**Daniel 5:12**)

- Accordingly **Daniel** himself was brought in before the king. The king was speaking up and saying to **Daniel**; Are you the **Daniel** that is of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Judah? (**Daniel 5:13**)
- I have also heard concerning you that the spirit of gods is in you, and illumination and insight and wisdom extraordinary have been found in you. (**Daniel 5:14**)
- And now there have been brought in before me the wise men and the conjurers, that they may read this very writing, even to make known to me its interpretation, but they are not competent enough to show the very interpretation of the word. (**Daniel 5:15**)
- And I myself have heard concerning you, that you are able to furnish interpretations and to untie knots themselves. Now, if you are able to read the writing and to make known to me its very interpretation, with purple you will be clothed, with a necklace of gold around your neck, and as the third one in the kingdom you will rule. (**Daniel 5:16**)
- At that time **Daniel** was answering and saying before the king: Let your gifts prove to be to you yourself, and your presents do you give to others. However, I shall read the writing itself to the king, and the interpretation I shall make known to him. (**Daniel 5:17**)
- As for you, O king, the Most High God himself gave to Nebuchadnezzar your father the kingdom and the greatness and the dignity and the majesty. (**Daniel 5:18**)
- And because of the greatness that He gave him, all peoples, national groups and languages proved to be quaking and showing fear before him. Whom he happened to want to, he was killing, and whom he happened to want to, he was striking, and whom he happened to want to, he was exalting, and whom he happened to want to, he was humiliating. (**Daniel 5:19**)

- But when his heart became haughty and his own spirit became hard, so as to act presumptuously, he was brought down from the throne of his kingdom, and his own dignity was taken away from him. (**Daniel 5:20**)
- And from the sons of mankind he was driven away, and his very heart was made like that of a beast, and with the wild asses his dwelling was. Vegetation they would give him to eat just like bulls, and with the dew of the heavens his own body got to be wet, until he knew that the Most High God is Ruler in the kingdom of mankind, and that the one whom he wants to, he sets up over it. (**Daniel 5:21**)
- And as for you, his son Belshazzar, you have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. (**Daniel 5:22**)
- But against the Lord of the heavens you exalted yourself, and they brought before you even the vessels of his house, and you yourself and your grandees, your concubines and your secondary wives have been drinking wine from them, and you have praised mere gods of silver and of gold, copper, iron, wood and stone, that are beholding nothing or hearing nothing or knowing nothing, but the God in whose hand your breath is and to whom all your ways belong you have not glorified. (**Daniel 5:23**)
- Consequently from before him there was being sent the back of a hand, and this very writing was inscribed. (**Daniel 5:24**)
- And this is the writing that was inscribed. Mene, Mene, Tekel and Parsin. (**Daniel 5:25**)
- This is the interpretation of the word, Mene. God has numbered the days of your kingdom and has finished it. (**Daniel 5:26**)
- Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and have been found deficient. (**Daniel 5:27**)
- Peres, your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and the Persians. (**Daniel 5:28**)
- At that time Belshazzar commanded, and they clothed **Daniel** with purple, with a necklace of gold about his neck, and they heralded concerning him that he was to become the third ruler in the kingdom. (**Daniel 5:29**)

- In that very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed (**Daniel 5:30**)
- And Darius the Mede himself received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old. (**Daniel 5:31**)

· Under Medo-Persian Rule

- During the reign of Darius the Mede, **Daniel** was one of the three high officials appointed over the 120 satraps who were to rule the kingdom. Excelling greatly in governmental service because of divine favor, **Daniel** was about to be elevated over all the kingdom when envy and jealousy caused the other officials to scheme for his execution.
- The Law that they induced the king to enact would have to be in connection with **Daniel's** worship of God, as they could find no fault with him otherwise. The king acted reluctantly to carry out the law, which, according to custom, could not be changed, but he did cast **Daniel** into the pit of the lions.
- For **Daniel's** firm integrity and faith, Yehowah sent His angel to deliver him from the lion's mouths. Darius then executed justice on the conspirators, having them destroyed by the same lions. (**Daniel 6**)
- In the first year of Darius, **Daniel** discerned the nearness of the end of the 70 years of desolation of Jerusalem, according to the writings of Jeremiah.
- And all this land must become a devastated place, an object of astonishment, and these nations will have to serve the king of Babylon seventy years. (**Jeremiah 25:11**)
- And it must occur that when seventy years have been fulfilled I shall call to account against the king of Babylon and against that nation, is the utterance of Yehowah, their error, even against the land of the Chaldeans, and I will make it desolate wastes to time indefinite. (**Jeremiah 25:12**)
- Humbly **Daniel** acknowledged the sins of his people and prayed that Yehowah would cause His face to shine upon the desolated sanctuary in Jerusalem.
- In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus of the seed of the

Medes, who had been made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans. ([Daniel 9:1](#))

- In the first year of his reigning I myself, **Daniel**, discerned by the books the number of the years concerning which the word of Yehowah had occurred to Jeremiah the prophet, for fulfilling the devastations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. ([Daniel 9:2](#))
- And now listen, O our God, to the prayer of your servant and to his entreaties, and cause your face to shine upon your sanctuary that is desolated, for the sake of Yehowah. ([Daniel 9:17](#))
- He was favored with a revelation through Gabriel, who gave him the prophecy of the 70 weeks, pinpointing the year of Messiah's arrival. **Daniel** happily lived to see the return of the Jews under Zerubbabel in **537 B.C.E.**, but it is not stated that he accompanied them.
- During the third year of Cyrus, **536 B.C.E.**, **Daniel** was given a vision by an angel who, in his mission to visit **Daniel**, had to contend with the prince of Persia. The angel spoke to reveal what was to befall **Daniel's** people in the final part of the days, because it is a vision yet for the days to come.
- And I have come to cause you to discern what will befall your people in the final part of the days, because it is a vision yet for the days to come. ([Daniel 10:14](#))
- Starting with the kings of Persia, he recorded history in advance. The prophecy revealed that the world scene would come to be dominated by two main opposing political powers, termed the king of the north and the king of the south, which situation would prevail until the standing up of Michael, with a great time of distress to follow. ([Daniel Chapters 11,12](#))
- **Daniel** may not have lived much beyond the third year of Cyrus. If he was a teenager at the time of being brought to Babylon in **617 B.C.E.**, he would be almost 100 years old when he received that vision recorded in ([Daniel Chapters 10 through 12](#)).
- The angels statement to Daniel,
- And as for you yourself, go toward the end, and you will rest, but you will stand up for your lot at the end of the days. ([Daniel 12:13](#))

· Daniel's Writership

- **Daniel** is referred to by Christ.
- Therefore, when you catch sight of the disgusting thing that causes desolation, as spoken of through **Daniel** the prophet, standing in a holy place, let the reader use discernment. (**Matthew 24:15**)
- Was alluded to by Paul at;
- Who through faith defeated kingdoms in conflict, effected righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions. (**Hebrews 11:33**)
- It cannot be demonstrated successfully by the critics that one or more later writers of Maccabean times had to do with the writing of all or parts of the canonical book of **Daniel**.

See Also APOCRYPHA

See Also DANIEL, BOOK OF