

Captivity Period:
Daniel "The Prophecy of History" *Daniel 1:1-12:13*

Daniel, "*God is my Judge*," is one of the best known books in the Old Testament. The story of the three Hebrew children in the fire, Daniel's night in the lions den, the handwriting on the wall and many more well known stories are in Daniel. However, Daniel is more than just a good storybook. It is one of the most important Old Testament books because of the prophecy contained within its borders. We could never dig the depths of this marvelous book in this STEP.

If you would allow I would like to follow the following outline. I will make a few brief comments about each section.

- I- Daniel The Captive. 1:1-21**
- II- The Five Future Kingdoms. 2:1-29; 7:1-28**
- III- The Four in the Fire. 3:1-30**
- IV- Conversion of a Pagan King. 4:1-37**
- V- First Kingdom Passes. 5:1-31**
- VI- A Night in the Lions Den. 6:1-28**
- VII- The Prophecy of History. 8:1-27; 11:1-35**
- VIII- The History of Israel. 9:1-27**
- IX- The Unseen Battle. 10:1-21**
- X- The End Time Prophecy. 11:36-12:13**

I- Daniel The Captive. 1:1-21

Daniel was a young man when he was taken into captivity by the Babylonians. (See **STEPS IN TIME IV**.) God told Israel that He allowed them to be taken captive because, "***ye have not heard my words...***" ***Jer 25:8*** This event had been prophesied by Isaiah some 100+ years before. (See ***Isaiah 39:1-8***)

Daniel was taken to the king's palace to be brainwashed and trained as a Chaldean. However he does not submit to the king's meat and drink and God honors his faithfulness by making him wiser and smarter. (***1:15-21***). Daniel purposed in his heart to follow God even in captivity.

II- The Five Future Kingdoms. 2:1-29; 7:1-28

(See **EXTRA STEP F**) There are two different views of the five future kingdoms given in Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a giant statue and Daniel had a vision of four beasts. These five kingdoms include the one that was currently in power, plus three more earthly kingdoms and the final kingdom of Christ.

The kingdoms are Babylon, Medes/Persians, Greek, Roman and the kingdom of Christ. (See **STEPS IN TIME VI**).

III- The Four in the Fire. 3:1-30

Daniel 3 records an event that pictures for us the providential of God for His nation Israel. Nebuchadnezzar the King sat up a 90' high statue. He commanded every subject in his kingdom to bow and worship this false god when they heard the music. The three Hebrew children refused to bow. They told him, "***...our God ...is able to deliver us.***" ***3:17***. They stated that even if they are killed they would not bow. (***3:18***)

The king was very angry and commanded the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual. He then

had them thrown in the fire. The king looked in the fire and saw four men. The three plus the "**son of God.**" Nebuchadnezzar make a decree that no one speak against the God of the three Hebrews.

IV- Conversion of a Pagan King. 4:1-37

Daniel 4 records the personal testimony of King Nebuchadnezzar. He told how God allowed him to become a mad man who lived like a wild animal for seven years. Daniel was called to interpret a dream of a giant tree. The tree was cut down but would spring forth again. The seven years of insanity of the king pictures for us the 7-year tribulation period.

V- First Kingdom Passes. 5:1-31

The handwriting on the wall is a very gripping story. What is seen in this story is the account of the overthrow of the Babylonian kingdom by the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians. The hand of God came out and wrote a message of doom for Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, who was ruler of Babylon. Daniel was again called in to interpret the writing. He told the king that his kingdom had been weighted in the balance and found wanting and was to be taken from him. It indeed happened that very night.

VI- A Night in the Lions Den. 6:1-28

The events in this chapter are amazing for the simple fact that Daniel is an important figure in the new government of the Medes and Persian. Daniel served two different world powers in very high levels.

The kingdom was divided and three presidents were placed over it. Daniel, one of these, was over the other two. They were jealous and laid a trap for Daniel concerning his prayer life. The king, Darius, made a decree that anyone who prayed to anyone but him for 30 days would be cast in the lion's den. Daniel is charged with praying to God. He was cast in the lion's den and spent the night. God delivered him and the next morning his accusers were cast in with their families.

VII- The Prophecy of History. 8:1-27; 11:1-35

Daniel was given a vision of a Ram and Goat. This prophecy concerns the Kingdoms of the Medes and Persians and Alexander's kingdom of the Greeks. This is some of the most detailed and accurate prophecy found anywhere in God's word.

VIII- The History of Israel. 9:1-27

The most important prophecy we will look at in relation to our story is the 70 weeks of Daniel. Daniel is given the history of Israel in these 70 weeks. (Please see **STEPS IN TIME VII**) God told Daniel that 490 years were appointed to the nation. We know that 69 of the 70 weeks have come to pass. The church age is the period of time we are now in. There is still another seven years of this 490 years to come. We call this the great tribulation period.

IX- The Unseen Battle. 10:1-21

Daniel 10 records the spiritual warfare that took place prior to Daniel receiving the vision of **Daniel 11**. We can discern from this chapter that there is a great spiritual warfare on going in relation to God's work.

X- The End Time Prophecy. 11:36-12:13

The prophecies contained in this section are some important ones. They concern the coming of the Anti-Christ, the battle of Gog and Magog, and the tribulation period.

Daniel gave us insight into the character of the anti-Christ in **11:21-39**. He told us he will appear suddenly as a peaceful man seemingly. He will however do everything according to his own will and not regard the God of his father. (**11:36-37**)

The battle of Gog and Magog (See **Ezek 38:19-22**) is a rebellion of the nations against the Anti-Christ during the tribulation. (see Daniel **11:40-45**.) God will protect the nation of Israel during this time. (**12:1ff**). Daniel was told to seal up these things until the end.

Daniel 12:4 gives us some signs of the end time. Speed and knowledge will increase.

The last few verses of Daniel give us some days related to the great tribulation period.

Application to Life's Steps:

- 1- We to should purpose in our hearts to serve God regardless of the circumstances.
- 2- The prophecies of Scripture are accurate because the God of heaven revealed them to the prophets.
- 3- Nebuchadnezzar shows us that God is interested in all classes of people.

4- If God were to weight our lives would they come up wanting?

5- The God of Israel is not finished with His nation and we should be careful how we treat her.

6- The increase of speed and knowledge should quicken our hearts with anticipation of the second coming of Messiah and the completion of Israel history.

Retracing our Steps:

1- The name Daniel means?

2- The five kingdoms of Daniel are:

3- How many years was Nebuchadnezzar insane prior to his conversion?

4- How many years of history did the nation of Israel have from the time of Daniel?

5- How many years are left and what do we know this period as?

6- What two things would increase in the last days?