

## **Book 27: Daniel** **The Key to Bible Prophecy**

### **Book 27: Daniel**

- A certain professor Bevan, a committed critic of the book of Daniel once made the following admission:

*“In the New Testament Daniel is mentioned only once, but the influence of the book is apparent almost everywhere.”*

- The prophet Daniel lived a beautiful godly life.
- He was taken into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon as a young man.
- He then served in the government of Babylon during the full 70 years of captivity, first under Nebuchadnezzar, and later under Cyrus the Persian.
- The book of Daniel contains many detailed prophecies – so many, in fact, that critics have suggested it was written after the events took place.
- For a two big reasons, however, this is an unreasonable objection:
  - We have an early Greek translation of the book, for which the date is well documented.
  - Many prophecies were fulfilled later yet, and many points have yet to be fulfilled at present.
- Furthermore, Jesus quoted from the book of Daniel and called him “Daniel the prophet”.
- That should be a good enough reference for us.
- Studying Daniel provides the foundation for understanding the book of Revelation.
- Jesus quoted from Daniel in His Olivet Discourse, His most important sermon on end-times events.
- Daniel predicted the major empires that would rule in the Middle East right up to the end.
- Daniel also predicted to the very day Christ’s entrance into Jerusalem as Messiah – on the day we often call Palm Sunday.
- He predicted the Messiah’s death shortly thereafter – and then alluded to the gap between Christ’s first and second comings.
- On top of all that, we find in Daniel a young man who was determined not to compromise with the standards of the pagan world around Him.
- Daniel lived, worked and worshiped in a society completely opposed to his beliefs and godly values.
- Still, he earned the respect of all the kings, rulers and high officials who knew him.

## Daniel: Facts

- Daniel wrote in exile – as did both Ezekiel and John.
- Like Joseph in Egypt, the Bible records no sin or failure on the part of Daniel.
- Also like Joseph, Daniel served foreign kings and was an interpreter of dreams.
  
- Daniel probably records more details about the future Antichrist and the Tribulation period than any other Old Testament book.
- Daniel twice records failed attempts at the execution of Jews for their faith:
  - Daniel's friends in the fiery furnace (Ch. 3)
  - Daniel in the lions' den (Ch. 6)
- In both cases others were killed instead.
  
- Daniel is the only Old Testament book that refers to both Gabriel and Michael, the only two holy angels whose names are mentioned in Scripture.
- Daniel never claimed to be a prophet and is not called a prophet in the Bible until Jesus calls him one in the book of Matthew.

## Daniel: Quotes

*"No other book has been so much attacked as this prophetic book. For almost 2000 years wicked men, heathen philosophers, and infidels have hammered away against it; but the book of Daniel has proven to be an anvil upon which the critic's hammers have been broken to pieces."*

- Arno C. Gaebelin

*"Among the great prophetic books of Scripture, none provides a more comprehensive and chronological prophetic view of the broad movement of history than the book of Daniel. ... Daniel is essential to the structure of prophecy and is key to the entire Old Testament prophetic revelation."*

- John F. Walvoord

*"A proper understanding of Daniel assists in a proper interpretation of the book of Revelation, for many of the same symbols and parallel prophecies are used in both books."*

- Tim LaHaye

## Daniel: Outline

### I. Daniel's Life and Work

Chapters 1 – 6

### II. Daniel's Visions, Dreams and Prophecies

Chapters 7 – 12

## **Keys to Daniel**

### **Key Concept:**

*The Times of the Gentiles*

Jesus used this phrase in Luke 21:24, referring to an extensive period of Gentile domination over Israel. Daniel 2 gives us the outline of these times.

Keys to Daniel

### **Key Verses:**

*Regarding God's Sovereignty*

- **Daniel 2:20-22**

*Regarding God's Kingdom*

- **Daniel 2:44**

### **Key Chapter:**

#### **Daniel 9**

9:1-2      *Daniel's Study of Prophecy*  
9:3-19     *Daniel's Prayer of Repentance*  
9:20-23   *Gabriel's Appearance to Daniel*  
9:24-27   *Gabriel's Message about Israel*