

Twelve Lessons

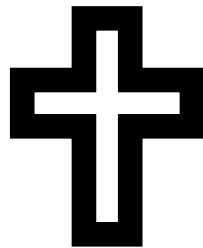
on

Daniel

Compiled

by

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During many years of study and preparation of educational material, we at Macedonia Baptist College have developed the philosophy that one should glean from every source and experience available. The following lessons have been gleaned from many sources, many sermons, and many life experiences. We continually encourage the students of Macedonia Baptist College to purchase a variety of resource material on each subject they wish to study. This allows the student to be exposed to the varying opinions of each author.

We wish to acknowledge those authors from which the content of this lesson book was developed. The listing of any particular book or author does not necessarily reflect agreement on the part of Macedonia Baptist College with the content. These resources are recommended for an exhaustive study of this subject.

REFERENCES AND COMMENTARIES

INTRODUCTION TO DANIEL – LESSON 1

Introduction: Daniel is a Prophetic book and it is divided into two parts. Chapters 1-6 deal with the history of Daniel's life and gives details concerning the captivity of Israel and the beginning rule of the Gentile nations. Chapters 7-12 were written with a prophetic theme giving light on the "end times". The best method of study to use would be to parallel Daniel in the light of the book of Revelation. Both are apocalyptic books. Below are some notes taken from the study of Clarence Larkin's book on Daniel to help introduce the student to the book.

Lesson Goals:

1. Help the student understand the definition and importance of Bible prophecy.
2. To describe the requirements a "prophecy" must meet in order to be considered genuine.
3. To oppose the heretical views many modern scholar hold and promote concerning the author, history and interpretation of the book.
4. To introduce the study of the book of Daniel in light of its historical and prophetic divisions dealing with the Jews and Gentiles. (Note: The Church age was unknown to Daniel and absent from his perception of the future.)
5. The lesson will draw the historical relationship of Daniel with the other prophetic books of the Old Testament.

Definitions of Important Terms or Phrases:

1. Prophecy – The term means "to tell before"; a foretelling, prediction, a declaration of something to come. "Bible prophecy refers not merely to the foretelling of future events, but to divine revelation in general, God showing man that which he cannot find out for himself." *Way of Life Encyclopedia*, David Cloud
2. Typology – The use of symbolism, illustration, or pictures to represent or relate to something else; the prefigure of something futuristic by form, model or resemblance. Example –Abraham's sacrifice and the Passover Lamb pictures Jesus Christ being offered as God's Son for man's salvation. *Webster's 1828 Dictionary*
3. Septuagint – A Greek version of the Old Testament, so called because it was the work of seventy, or rather seventy two interpreters. This translation from the Hebrew is supposed to have been made in the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus, king of Egypt, about two hundred and seventy eight years before the birth of Christ. *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* – Note: Fundamentalists have questioned the history and validity of this translation.
4. Modernism – A label for an unbelieving, rationalist approach to Christianity as opposed to fundamentalism.

I. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PROPHECY – (Notes from *Daniel* by Clarence Larkin)

A. The Definition of Prophecy

1. Prophecy is history written in advance. Daniel stated this to the king Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2:45, "*Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.*"
2. Prophecy can be described as being twofold, it is both descriptive and predictive. The prophets were both "forth-tellers" as well as "fore-tellers". They had "insight" and "foresight". The prophecies spoken were given by the Spirit of God according to II Peter 1:21, "*For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*"
3. Two-thirds of the Bible is prophetic, either in typology, literal, or symbolic writings and half of all Biblical prophecy has not been fulfilled.

B. The Method of Studying Bible Prophecy

1. When studying biblical prophecy it must be carefully studied and compared to other Scripture that relates to the specific prophecy (See 2 Peter 1:19-20).
2. Prophecy is not an allegory, or spiritual account, but a literal description of the future plan of God's will. Larkin gives a great illustration of the detailed way God fulfills that which he predicts. Compare Genesis 15:13-14 with Exodus 12:35-36. Larkin also gives a detailed list of sixteen prophecies in reference to the First Coming of Christ that were fulfilled in the last week of His life. He uses these to support the fact of the accuracy of Bible prophecy.
3. There are five requirements that must be present for a prediction to be considered prophetic. The five requirements of a genuine prediction are:
 - a. It must be made known prior to its fulfillment.
 - b. It must be beyond all possible human foresight.
 - c. It must be very descriptive as to not leave out any details.
 - d. A sufficient time must elapse between the utterance and fulfillment to keep a prophet or any party

from fulfilling it.

e. There must be a clear and detailed fulfillment of the prophecy.

II. THE CONTROVERSY OF DANIEL

A. The Attack Against The Book

1. The Deception of Porphyry – Although Daniel was written about B.C. 550, Porphyry, a Syrian living in the 3rd century, claimed that Daniel was a forged book written around B.C. 168 to encourage the Jews after Antiochus Epiphanes.
2. The Deception of Modernists – Many modernists today follow Porphyry claiming that Daniel had no part in writing the book, and may have never even existed. They argue it was written by a holy Jewish scholar after Antiochus desecrated the temple. For example, E.W. Heaton, Chancellor of Salisbury Cathedral, published a commentary on Daniel in 1956. Concerning the authorship of the book he wrote, “The immediate occasion which called forth the book of Daniel was the persecution of the Jews by the Seleucid king Antiochus Epiphanes, who reigned from 175 to 163 B.C. The write, a pious scribe living in the middle of the persecution, is addressing his contemporaries through the medium of an ancient sage, about whom he recounts stories and to whom he ascribes visions.” 3. Why such an attack? Because Daniel stands as a testimony to the accuracy and validity of the inspiration of Scripture by the Holy Spirit and clearly portrays the destruction of the Gentile World powers by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

B. The Authenticity Of The Book

1. The historical recordings of Josephus – Josephus, a Jewish Historian, gives us the history of Israel from Abraham to the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. He wrote about the struggle of the Jews with Antiochus, and states that the things came to pass “according to the prophecy of Daniel which was given 408 years before.” This means that the book of Daniel was completed close to B.C. 573. Josephus also recorded that when Alexander the Great came to conquer Jerusalem, B.C. 332, that Jaddua, the High Priest, showed him the reference in Daniel concerning himself and he spared the city.
2. The fact of the Septuagint – Although the historical existence of the Septuagint is questionable, the book of Daniel is mentioned in this “ancient” Greek translation of the Old Testament which was completed about 285 B.C.. This was more than 100 years before it was suggested that Daniel was written by a pious Jew.
3. Daniel recognized by Ezekiel – Read Ezekiel 14:14, 20; 28:3. 3. Daniel recognized by Christ – The greatest evidence that the book of Daniel is authentic is Jesus’ recognition of it in Matthew 24:15. Here Christ mentions the prophecies of Daniel.

C. The Author Of The Book

1. Of all the major and minor prophets of the Old Testament, more is known of Daniel than any other. He was a descendent of the Tribe of Judah, and was from a very noble family. He may have been from a royal family. In the third year of Jehoiakim, B.C. 606, he was carried away into captivity in the first invasion of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar. He was approximately 20 years of age. 2. At the death of Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel retired, and was not heard from until Belshazzar saw the fiery finger writing on the wall. He lived through all Seventy Years of Captivity, and was made Chief President over the 120 provinces of the kingdom under Darius the Median. He is one of the few spotless characters found in the Bible. There is not one account of sin in Daniel’s entire lifetime. He associated with kings, led a public life, held political office, talked with angels, and saw visions of God. He was a great man of faith, and in Hebrews 11:33 is called the one who “stopped the mouths of lions.” Daniel was indeed the prophetic statesman of his time. He predicted the rise and fall of great nations, the chaos of the end times under the Antichrist, and concluded with the return of the Great King, The Lord Jesus Christ and his Millennial Kingdom.

III. THE CONTENT OF DANIEL

A. Personal Content – Historical Account of Daniel’s Life

1. The Call To Conform – Chapter 1
2. The Challenge Of The Dream – Chapter 2
3. The Call To Compromise – Chapter 3
4. The Interpretation Of The Tree Dream – Chapter 4
5. The Handwriting On The Wall – Chapter 5
6. The Persecution Of Righteous Living – Chapter 6

B. Prophetical Content – Prophetical Account of Gentiles and Jews

1. The Four Beast – Chapter 7
2. The Vision Of The Ram and He Goat – Chapter 8

3. The Seventy Weeks Of Daniel – Chapter 9
4. The Complete Vision Of The Future – Chapter 10-12
5. The Kingdoms In Daniel
 - a. Kingdom Of Babylon – 606-539 BC
 1. The Head Of Gold – 2:36-38
 2. The Lion With Eagle’s Wings – 7:4
 - b. Kingdom Of Meda-Persia – 539-330 BC
 1. Arms & Chest Of Silver – 2:32, 39
 2. Bear With Three Ribs – 7:5
 - c. Kindom Of Greece – 330-150 BC
 1. Thigh Of Brass – 2:32, 39
 2. Leopard With Four Heads – 7:6
 - d. Kingdom Of Rome – 150 BC – AD 500
 1. Legs Of Iron – 2:33, 40
 2. The “dreadful beast” – 7:7
 - e. Kingdom Of The Antichrist
 1. Ten Toes Of Iron and Clay – 2:41-43
 2. Little Horn – 7:8
 - f. Kingdom Of Christ
 1. The Stone That Crushes The Image – 2:34-35
 2. The Ancient Of Days – 7:9-14
6. The chronological order of the Old Testament prophets revealing Daniel’s place in history.

<u>The Prophet</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>To Whom</u>	<u>The Message</u>
Joel	835-796 BC	Southern Kingdom	The Day Of The Lord
Jonah	784-722 BC	Nineveh	God’s Judgment Upon Gentiles
Amos	764-755 BC	Northern Kingdom	The Consequence Of Sin
Hosea	755-714 BC	Northern Kingdom	The Never Ending Love Of God
Isaiah	745-680 BC	Southern Kingdom	The Future Of God’s Remnant
Micah	740-698 BC	Both Kingdoms	Present Sin And Future Hope
Nahum	648-620 BC	Nineveh	Judgment & The Fall Of Nineveh
Zephaniah	634-625 BC	Southern Kingdom	The Destruction Of Jerusalem
Jeremiah	626-580 BC	Southern Kingdom	The Lamentations Of Jerusalem
Habakkuk	625-610 BC	Southern Kingdom	A Call To Faith
Daniel	605-530 BC	The Remnant	The Future Of World Kingdoms
Ezekiel	592-570 BC	The Remnant	Israel’s Judgment & Glory
Obadiah	586-??? BC	Edom	The Doom Of Edom
Haggai	520 BC	The Remnant	The Priority Of God’s Work
Zechariah	520-518 BC	The Remnant	Present Needs & Future Glory
Malachi	450-400 BC	The Remnant	A Rebuke Of Selfishness