

THE PROPHET DANIEL

I. His Existence.

A. He was the author of Daniel. cf. 7:28; 8:2; 10:2.

B. Hewas attested to:

1. By Ezekiel 14:14, 20; 28:3. Show piety and wisdom of Daniel.

Ezek old saint and Dan young and favored

2. 1 Maccabees, 2:59-60 authenticates.

3. Josephus Antiq x.11 refers to Daniel's prophecies.

4. X, Matt 24:15. Called prophet here.

5. Allusions in NT which must have Dan in mind, 1 Pet 1:10 (Dan 9:3; 12:8); 2 Thess 2:3 (9:27); 1 Cor 6:2 (7:22); Heb 11:33 (3)

6. Intimate knowledge of Chaldean history as confirmed by secular historicans and archaeology. If these facts true then A. above true too.

7. Fulfilled prophecy. Cummings p. 27.

C. He was active man.

1. He was a disciplined child. 1

2. He was an interpreter of dreams. 2

3. He was an interpreter of signs, 5.

4. He was a seer of visions, 6-12.

5. He was a politician. In service of Neb, Bel, Darius, and perhaps Cyrus.

a. Had wisdom and skill in governmental matters.

b. Kept up his prayer life and testimony. Pious participant.

II. His Era.

A. Israel's revolt from Judah on accession of Rehoboam. Also revolted against God and forsake worship of Jeh. 975 B.C.

B. Israel into Assyrian captivity in 721. 2½ centuries of apostasy and no bright spot in it. In captivity 100 years before Daniel born.

C. Judah retained nominal independence. Nabopolassar (father of Neb) raising up an empire in the north. Egypt still enemy on south. Daniel born about 625. Still a boy when Pharaoh Necho unsuccessfully invaded Assyria, 2 Chron 35:20; 2 Kings 23:29.

On homeward march Pharaoh made Eliakim king instead of rightful Jehoahaz, younger son of Josiah, and changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim and made him vassal of Egypt. 2 Kings 23:33-35; 2 Chron 36:3-4.

D. Third year after these events Neb in command of father's armies captured Jerus but left Jehoiakim on throne bec he promised alliegance and took only vessels of temple and few youths of royal seed of Judah, 2 Kings 24:1; 2 Chron. 36:6-7; Dan 1:1-2. After 3 years Jehoiakim revolted.

E. 2nd invasion of Jerus and Jehoiachin king and offered to surrender. 598B.C. Neb sacked the city, 2 Kg 24:14. Jehoicahin's unvle, Zedekiah was left as governor of the despoiled and depopulated city. Ezekiel captured in this one, Ezek 1:2.

F. Background of 3rd invasion by Babylon.

Isaiah predicted in 39:7

1. Servitude of Judah to Babylon predicted in days of Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:17); Jeremiah had message of hope (29:10) but Zehekiah warned those who remained in Jerus not to fight lest they bring worse punishment (Jer 24:8-10; 25:9; 27:3-8). False porphets fed vanity of People (Jer 28:1-4) and king deceived got promise of armed support from Egypt, then revolted against Neb.

2. Neb attacked and Egypt came to aid and Babylons retreated, Jer 37:1,5,11.

3. Neb. himself came against city and after 18 months seige Jerus completely sacked (2 Kings 25:1-3). Complete destruction, 2 Chron 36:17-21.

Estimate 1,100,000 Jews killed in Jerus this time.

First invasion 606B.C. 2nd in 598 and 3rd in 587.

(From Anderson)

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THE BOOK OF DANIEL

I. Its Place in the Canon

- A. Eng. Bible puts with Major Prophets. Same in LXX and Vulgate.
- B. Heb. Bible puts in 3rd division, Kethuvim or writings. Why?
 - 1. Bec Jews tho less inspired.
 - 2. Bec written after 2nd division closed.
 - 3. Bec Dan not called a prophet, nabhi, rather called a hozeh, seer, and hakham, wise man. Greek word prophetes renders both nabhi and hozeh. Thus Lord rightly designated him, but Jews reserved 2nd division for those called nabhi. This best suggestion tho no real evidence for order of canonicity bec no historical evidence until 180 B.C.

Dan. primarily a statesman. Prophet had to be a mediator bet. God & Israel

II. Its Divisions

- B. ~~42~~ Subject matter divisions. 1-6 historical; 7-12 prophetic.
Tho 1-6 has prophecy in it and 7-12 history.
- A. ~~B2~~ Language divisions. 1:1-2:4a intro. 2:4b-7:28 Aramaic. 8-12 Hebrew.
Not a logical division.

Reasons for preferring B.

- a. Standpoint of writer. 1:1-7:1 writer speaks in 3rd person. Didn't need to, cf. 2:14. 7:2 to end Daniel uses 1st person.
- b. Character of contents. Historical and predictive.
- c. Agency of revelation. 1-6 prophet empowered by HS is only agent.
7-12 a divine messenger is interpreter and agent of rev.

III. Its Authenticity.

Charges are brot against : ISBE

A. Its Predictions.

- 1. By non-theists who deny the possibility of predictive prophecy.
- 2. By theists who point out that Dan is apocalyptic (less definite).
More like things written in 2nd c B.C.
Answer: a. Book of Enoch (2nd c B.C.) and Book of Esdras (300A.D. 450 years later) both called apocalyptic. Why couldn't Dan antedate Enoch by mere 350 years. There had to be a beginning somewhere.
- b. Dead Sea scrolls show Dan accepted, LXX trans, by their time (and they reflect 100 B.C. or earlier) which would be difficult if Dan not written until 290 B.C. Takes time for all that acceptance.
Deesn't prove 6th c B.C. date.

B. Its Miracles.

This charge affects all of Xnty and many books of Bible. Where stop?

- C. Its Text. 3 Greek names of musical instruments and number of Persian words. But Greek inscriptions of early 6th c B.C. found. Phoenicians brot commerce in 1st millennium B.C. would allow for adoption of foreign words. Persian words are (1) either really Babylonian as some have found to be or (2) Median and Israel would have known these from Assyrians and Dan including Israel as well as Judah in his writings.

D. Its History.

- 1. Chronological objections.
 - a. 1:1--3rd year. cf Jer 25:1--4th year. Dan used Babylonian system of dating leaving out the incomplete year. Jer uses Jewish system which includes.
 - b. 1:21 and 10:1. 1:21 is first year of Cyrus as king of Babylon and 10:1 is 3rd year of Cyrus as king of Persia.
 - c. 8:1 Belshazzar sub-king while father out.

DANIEL'S DEDICATION

Intro. All consider this chpt as introductory. Some say it is Dan's personal history; others that it shows the moral conditions of the time and thus gives setting for book (HAI). Several themes in it like Education (by family, by state, by religion) or Providence of God (acc to fixed laws, Jer 25:11; over nations, over individuals); but most obvious theme is dedication of Dan.

I. The Circumstances of his dedication, 1-7.

A. Family background circumstances.

1. Tribe of Judah, royal tribe, 3, cf. 2 Kings 20:17-18. 1 Cor 1:27 ff.
Man of rank and dignity. Isa royal; David shepherd; Amos herdsman; Elisha ploughman.
2. Uprooted from family while teen ager, 4. Children prob 12-14 yrs old.
3. Handsome, 4. Good looks connected in Oriental ideas with mental power.
4. Godly parents, 6. Godly name--God my judge. Sets theme of book (God's judgment on heathen powers.)
Also seen from fact of Dan's behaviour thruout book. Doesn't come overnight.

B. Religious circumstances.

1. Covenant relationship bec a Jew. Still God's people even tho being punished.
2. Conversion relationship, 8. Naturalness of v 8 shows Dan was godly boy and had evidently experienced some akin to NT conversion. Note: child evangelism.

C. Political circumstances.

1. Nationally. See intro. Sowing and reaping. Gal 6:7; Heb. 11:6.
2. Individually. a. Chosen, 3-4. To be taught wisdom of Babylon.
cf. Moses trained in Egypt or Magi. Impt as wisdom of world is in its place, it doesn't compare with wisdom from God as ch 2 shows. 1 Cor 1.
b. Cared for, 5. 3 yr course all expenses paid. Eunuchs means chamberlains.
King's meat a great privilege and wine a delicacy.
c. chagged in an attempt to corrupt, 6-7. Neb wanted their skill but not their religion and their names were a constant reminder of the latter.
Daniel--God my judge; Belteshazzar--Bel's prince.
Hananiah--whom Jeh hath favored; Shadrach--messenger of king. Rak was sun god.
Mishaël--who is what God is? (comparable to God); Meshach--belonging to goddess Shak (note el replaced by shak).
Azarbael--whom Jeh helps; Abednego--servant of Nego.
Note: all names contain heathen gods of Babylon. Bel was chief god; others in order were sun god, earth god, fire god.
Note: Dan didn't protest at this. Christian was name of shame at first.
"What's in a name? that which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet." But lots in a name--cf Marcel.
However, this wasn't a cause for protest.

II. The Characteristics of his dedication, 8-16-17.

A. A Climactic Commital, 8. Purposed--decided resolution. Commit.

Rom 12:1. Note that a particular issue brot him to it, but involved whole life.

B. Conviction. After Changing names then Neb changed food. Forget name and forget creed that goes with it. Custom to throw small part of meat and wine on altar as libation to gods and thus meat offered to idols. Also for Dan some meat was doubtless unclean and forbidden. So wrong on 2 counts.

C. A Campaign, 9-16.

1. Tact. Politeness.
2. Persistence. Went to prince of eunuchs and to chief butler who distributed food. Pulse is vegetable food in general. *cf. y's*

*Could have expected some
but ① only doing Rom 13
② Titled
③ Simp - kg not in meat & drink
④ give up to intense
⑤ I forgive land when more known*

D. Consistency, 17-18.

Rom 8:13. 2 Tim 2:22.

1. Man's part, 18. Continued for 3 years in this discipline and training.
2. God's part, 17. He supplied wisdom that comes in no other way.

III. The Consequences of his dedication, 17-21

A. Discernment, 17. Jas 1:5.

16 1:15-16.

B. Distinction, 20. God made the despised captives wiser than the sages of Babylon.

C. Difficulties. Rest of book. ch 3 for 3 young men and ch 6 for Dan himself.

Some Change

In location
occupati
name

No Change

determinati
values.
vision

2. Geographical objections.

- a. 7:2 where Sushan subject to Babylon tho really Media.

But some say it was to Babylon and maybe no prob at all bec this was a vision.

- b. 6:1--satrapy too big for 120 of them. But Sargon of Assyria had 117 of them so must shrink out conception of satrapy.

3. Other

Belshazzar and Merius never existed. But archaeology has disproved. But once these suspicitons get started it's hard to remove them.

Note on name Nebuchadnezzar--Jer 25:1
LXX Nabouchodonosor.

Vulgate Nabuchodonosor.

Change from r to n not uncommon in Semitic languages
as Ben-hadad and Bar-hadad

Possible that nezzar is Aramaic trans of Baby rezzar.

C. Method of right living, 1:8b-14.
Note the discipline.

D. Reward of right living, 1:15-20.
Physical strength, knowledge and skill, preeminence, enquired of by the king.

Application--to know will, mind, plan of God must be Dedication (v.8), discipline (5, 8-14--three years); then direction comes (v.20). Must be so in study of the book. These prophecies are revealed to spiritually minded ones.

CHAPTER TWO. Daniel's interpretation of Neb's dream. The great image.

I. The dream received, 1-~~2~~.

A. The dream dreamed, vs.1.

1. Time of it. 2nd year of reign. cf. Dan. 1:1,5; Jer.25:1.
Word in 1:1 may be translated come or go; prob went is best here. Beginning of expedition was 3rd year of Jehoikim ~~xxxxxxx~~. Calling Neb king in Jer 25 is a prolepsis. Father Nabopolassar died while Neb was on expedition and wasn't until a year later that he actually took seat as king. Therefore 606 was fall of Jerus and beginning of Daniel's training, 605 beg of Neb's reign; 604 2nd year for Neb and 3rd for Dan.
2. Nature of it--dream caused by natural thinking about future, vs.29.
3. Effect of it--spirit troubled.

B. The dream used as a test, 2-~~5~~⁶.

Gesenius translates vs.5 "the decree has gone, from me, i.e. etc". King had not completely forgotten the dream but wanted to test his magicians. This would give a plausible explanation why wise men did not make up something. Neb wanted to test their ability concn future by ability to reconstruct the past. vs.1 may indicate that he was troubled bec. he remembered the dream not forgot it.

Those tested were magicians (scribes--those who made incantations in relatively unknown tongue--Akkadia); astrologers (those who practiced hidden arts); sorcerers (lit. those who cut up things to make magic); Chaldeans (those who inherited secrets of hidden arts).

II. The dream revealed, 5-23

A. Not to the wise men, 7-13.

Excuses--ask for statement of dream vs.7; charge the king with injustice, v 10; say that belongs only to a god, vs11. Note incompetence of human resources and learning however exalted, official, honored by age, tradition or position to know the truth of God apart from revelation.

B. But to Daniel, 14-23. Thru prayer.

The manner of the prayer--united, vs. 17.

The motive of the prayer--seemingly selfish, vs 18.

The answer--Dan. fell asleep in meeting and got answer.

HAI notes they desired mercies (13) i.e. prayer--asking;

*draw - asking
vision - asking
etc*

3
God revealed something--that is ministry; Dan blessed God, which is worship. Note ascription of praise in 21,22.

III. The dream recited, 24-49.

A. The dream reported, 24-30.

To Arioch who goes in haste and pride to the king. Typical little bureaucrat "I have found".

Daniel's report included

- (1) the source of his information. "Knowing as we do that an ordinary human being takes pride in nothing quite so much as in superior knowledge, this is certainly a jewel of humility and intellectual honesty."
- (2) the reference of his information. In latter days and hereafter.

B. The dream rehearsed, 31-35.

C. The dream interpreted, 36-45.

Represents times of the Gentiles. This age not seen.

1. Head of gold, 37,38.

Neb. represents self and kingdom. Isa. 14:4 gold used of Babylon.

2. Breast and arms of silver, 39a.

Media-Persia (2 arms). History bears out. 2 Chron 36:20; Dan. 5:28-31; 6:8.

3. Belly and thighs of brass, 39b. Dan. 8:21,22; Joel 3:6. Greece.

4. Lower limbs of iron and feet of iron and clay.

Rome, Lk. 2:1. 2 legs represent east and west division. Toes are not a fifth kingdom but a stage of the 4th. Same as Dan. 7:24 and Rev. 17:12. Never have these existed at one time.

5. The stone, 44,45. Is X. Acts 4:11; Eph. 2:20. Isa. 28:16; Stone destroys the Gentile powers.

Time of this--postmill says this began at 1st advent.

But Rome put Him to death not vice versa.

Crumbling is sudden. Postm says gradual.

Strikes the image at feet not in thighs as would be case if at first advent.

General observations about the dream:

- (1) Shows a continuous succession of empires.
- (2) Progressive division of sovereignty. One head; 2; more until 10.
- (3) Progressive deterioration in metals. In character of authority of kingdoms.
Neb. ruled in absolute sovereignty, 5:19.
Medio-Persian kings subject to own laws, 6:14,15.
Alexander ruled by power of army (more people involved).
Roman emperors ruled by rule of populus. Republic.
Today democracy (clay) is weak. Iron of dictatorships also present. "A certain amount of mismanagement is the price we must pay for democracy." Hoover.
- (4) At same time increase in strength of metals.
On Rome Gibbons says, "The empire of the Romans filled the world. . . . To resist was fatal and to flee was impossible." In last days iron and clay united tho not mixed.

D. The interpretation rewarded, 46-49.

Honor and promotion to Daniel and friends who had prayed.

Honor extended to God but still only "a god".

