

Daniel

Summary

Daniel claims to have received visions from God, which he subsequently recorded. The book of Daniel is about how God's people are to live during the times of the Gentiles. Daniel was one of the first exiles to Babylon, where the Jews fell under Gentile domination because of their sin and rebellion against God. This book includes: prophecy, prayer, apocalyptic visions, and insight into spiritual warfare. It teaches that all of God's people are under His sovereignty, even when circumstances do not seem to be in their favor. Daniel shows that God of heaven rules on earth, even when earth seems to be out of control.

Author and Date:

Daniel wrote the book sometime after the end of the Babylonian captivity in the sixth century BC. 530 BC

Audience/ Setting:

Israelites; other captives in Babylon. The exiles are in Babylon. Daniel was taken captive and deported to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC. He served in government for about 70 years during reigns of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, and Cyrus.

Purpose:

Encourage God's people to remain hopeful while being ruled by various groups of Gentiles. God still had a plan and wanted His people to trust and obey Him. Much of Daniel's story includes God speaking through dreams and visions. Historical account of the faithful Jews who lived in Babylonian captivity.

Key People:

Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Belshazzar, Darius, Cyrus

Key Places:

Nebuchadnezzar's palace, the blazing furnace, Belshazzar's feast, the den of lions

References

NLT Life Application Study Bible
Tony Evans Study Bible