

The Book of Daniel

Introduction to Daniel

Daniel 1:1; Ezekiel 14:14; Matthew 24:15; 26:64

1. Who, Where, When?

A. The Controversy.

"One's view concerning authorship and date is significant because it ultimately determines the interpretation of every aspect of this prophecy." (Steven Miller, New American Commentary)

I. Maccabean Origination:

Many modern scholars discount the possibility of predictive future prophecy as well as other descriptions of God's supernatural intervention in the world. The author's use of language and knowledge of 'history', along with other factors, lead them to conclude that Daniel was written somewhere in the second or third century B.C. from Palestine in order to encourage the Maccabean endeavor.

II. Babylonian Origination

The majority of Christians and Jews throughout history, with extremely few exceptions, have believed that the book of Daniel was the product of the historical man Daniel who was living in Babylon during the late 7th and mid 6th century B.C.

III. Scriptural Evidence

- a. Ezekiel 14:14, 20; 28:3 and Daniel the Man
- b. Matt 26:64 (Mark 14:62; Luke 22:69) and the Son of Man (Dan 7:13ff)
- c. Matt 24:15 (Mark 13:14) and the Abomination of Desolation (Dan 9:27)

B. The Author of Daniel

Taken at face value, the book was written by Daniel himself (Dan 8:15, 27; 9:2; 10:2, 7; 12:4-5). He was an eyewitness to the fundamental end of the kingdom of Judah as well to the end of the Babylonian empire (Dan 1:1-3; 5:30). Jesus Christ also affirms that Daniel is the author of this book (Matt 24:15).

C. Date and Location of Writing

Daniel, along with others of the finest of the noble sons of Israel, was taken from Judah to Babylon in 605 B.C. so that he would serve in the court of king Nebuchadnezzar. He remained in royal service in Babylon into the beginning

of Medo-Persian empire and most likely it is here where he likely completed writing this book prior to the year 530 B.C.

2. Primary Themes of the Book of Daniel

A. The Sovereignty of God

- I. ...Over **the Human Body** (Dan 1:12-16)
- II. ...Over **the Secret Knowledge of Men and of God** (Dan 2:26-30)
- III. ...Over **the Natural Elements** (Dan 3:22-27)
- IV. ...Over **the Behavior of Animals** (Dan 6:21-22)
- V. ...Over **the Life and Will of Man** (Dan 4:28-32)

B. Concern and Encouragement for the Jews

This is seen in many ways in this book, but specifically in the way that God has not abandoned His people who were in bondage and in the prophecy of future plans for Israel (Dan 9:1-3, 24-27).

C. The Advents and Work of Messiah

There is significant importance, as we see from the New Testament references to the book of Daniel, to the prominence of the Messiah in this book (Dan 2:44-45; 7:13ff; 9:24ff).