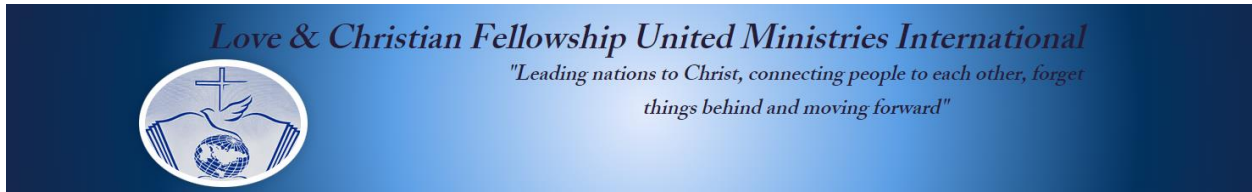


CHAPTER 1

DANIEL AND HIS TIMES

A. THE MAN...

1. The name "Daniel" means "God is my judge"
2. He was a person of deep and abiding faith
 - a. As a youth, he purposed not to defile himself - Dan 1:8
 - b. When old, he persisted in serving God despite threats against his life - Dan 6:10
3. God blessed Daniel because of his faith
 - a. He rose to great heights in the kingdoms of Babylon and Persia - Dan 2:48; 6:1-3
 - b. He served as a statesman, a counselor to kings, and a prophet of God
4. Daniel was contemporary with Jeremiah and Ezekiel
 - a. Jeremiah prophesied in Jerusalem before and during the Babylonian exile (626-528 B.C.)
 - b. Ezekiel prophesied in Babylon among the exiles (592-570 B.C.)
 - c. Daniel prophesied in the capital of Babylon (605-586 B.C.)
5. Nothing is known of his personal life outside of the book
 - a. He descended from one of Judah's prominent families, if not from royal blood - Dan 1:3
 - b. At an early age (12-18) he was taken from his family to be trained in the courts of Babylon - Dan 1:3-4
 - c. Whether he ever married is uncertain



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (BC years are counting down)

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon invasion of Juda (3 times)

1. 605 B.C. - *Battle of Carchemish, establishing Babylonian domination*

- 1) Pharaoh-Necho of Egypt came to fight the Babylonians at Carchemish
- 2) Nebuchadnezzar defeated the Egyptians, chasing them south through Judah
- 3) At Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar heard of his father's death; he returned to assume the throne in Babylon
- 4) The first group of Jewish captives were taken, along with Daniel and his friends
- Dan 1:1-4

2. 597 B.C. - *A second remnant taken to Babylon*

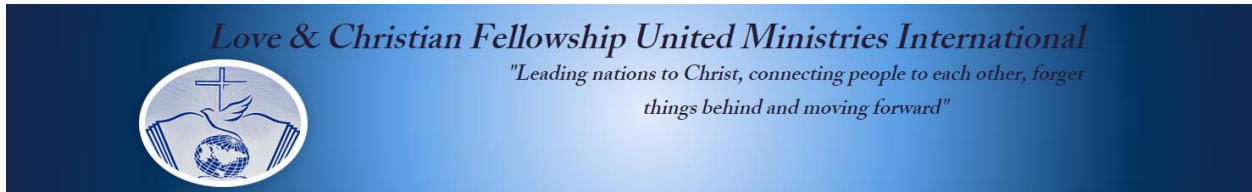
- 1) Jehoiachin (Jeconiah, Coniah) followed the reign of his father, Jehoiakim
- 2) He lasted just three months, when Nebuchadnezzar took him and 10,000 Jews to Babylon - 2 Kin 24:8-16
- 3) This second group of captives included Ezekiel - Eze 1:1-3

3. 586 B.C. - *Fall of Jerusalem and the temple destroyed*

- 1) Zedekiah was installed as king in Jerusalem, but was weak and vacillating
- 2) Eleven years later, Jerusalem was totally devastated by Babylonian forces - 2 Kin 25:1-10
- 3) A third group was taken into Babylonian captivity, but Jeremiah was among those who stayed behind - 2 Kin 25:11-12,22; Jer. 39:11-14; 40:1-6

The reason for this captivity was the disobedience and sinfulness of the people. In Deuteronomy 28, God promised to bless Israel if they were obedient but to curse them if they were disobedient. After the reign of Solomon, the kingdom of Israel was divided. Jeroboam became king of the 10 northern tribes of Israel and Rehoboam became king of the two southern tribes of Judah.

During the divided Kingdom Israel had a total of 19 kings; 11 of the 19 Kings of Judah were wicked in the sight of God. The invasion and 70-years captivity reflected a fulfillment of Deuteronomy 28.



BABYLON FALLS

1. 536 B.C. - Babylon falls, and the first remnant returns to Jerusalem
 - 1) Cyrus, king of Persia, sends the first remnant back under the leadership of Zerubbabel - Ezra 1:1-5; 2:1-2
 - 2) The foundation of the temple was soon started, but the temple was not completed until 516 B.C. - Ezra 3:8-13; 6:14-16

2. 457 B.C. - A second remnant returns to Jerusalem
 - 1) Ezra the priest returns with this group - Ezra 7:1-8:36
 - 2) He leads a much-needed revival - Ezra 9:1-10:44

4. 444 B.C. - A third remnant returns to Jerusalem
 - 1) This group is led by Nehemiah - Neh 1:1-2:20
 - 2) Under his leadership, the walls of Jerusalem are rebuilt - Neh 3:1-7:73
 - 3) Together with Ezra, they restore much of the religion - Neh 8:1-13:31

4. Daniel lived through much of these times (605-534 B.C.)
 - a. He was among the first group of captives taken to Babylon - Dan 1:1-4
 - b. He continued there over the entire 70 years of captivity - Dan 1:21; 10:1; cf. Dan 9:1-2; Jer 25:11; 29:10

DATE AND AUTHORSHIP

Although the book of Daniel was written during the exile in [Babylon](#) and shortly thereafter (*written, Approx.. 537 B.C by Daniel*) its purpose was not necessarily to present a history of the Jewish exile. The book focuses on specific experiences of the prophet and his friends as well as prophecies for [God's](#) people thereafter.

The book of Daniel is often thought of to be written in two parts. The first 6 chapters are considered more historical, as they tell stories of the life of Daniel and his friends in chronological order. The last 6 chapters (7-12) are considered prophetic, as they mainly state the prophecies given to Daniel throughout various times during his captivity in [Babylon](#) and in Persia.

Daniel has been attacked by liberal thinkers more than any other book in the bible. The reason being is that Daniel presents such a detailed account of history that liberal teachers believe it could only have been written after the events have occurred

Christians who are students of the bible readily accept the authenticity of the book as an all-knowing, all-powerful God with uttermost authority.

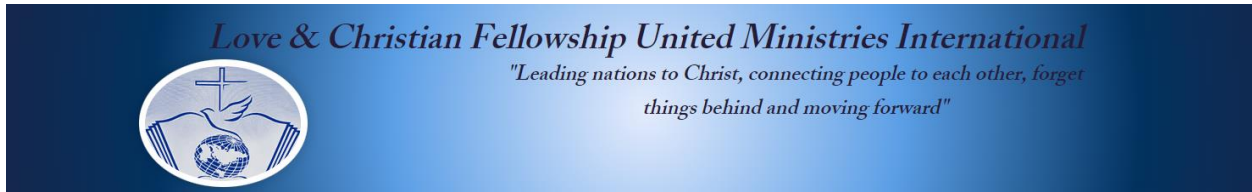


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BRIEF OUTLINE

1. Historical Section - 1:1-6:28
 - a. Captives in Babylon - Daniel determination to be pure - 1:1-21
 - b. Nebuchadnezzar's Image - 2:1-49
 - c. Fiery Furnace - 3:1-30
 - d. Nebuchadnezzar's second dream and temporary insanity - 4:1-37
 - e. The writing on the wall and fall of Belshazzar - 5:1-31
 - f. The Lion's Den - 6:1-28
11. Prophetical Section - 7:1-12:13
 - a. The four beasts - 7:1-28
 - b. The two Beast - ram and the goat - 8:1-27
 - c. The seventy weeks - 9:1-27
 - d. Daniel's vision of the Glory of God - 10:1-12:1
 - e. Prophecies Concerning Persia, Greece, and the Time of the End 11:1-45
 - f. The Great Tribulation and Resurrection 12:1-3



TAKE AWAY FROM DANIEL

Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we should always stand for what we know is right. God is greater than any punishment that could come upon us.

Whether God chooses to deliver us or not, He is always worthy of our trust. God knows what is best, and He honors those who trust and obey Him.

1. As a young man, his faith gave him the courage to remain true to his convictions
2. As an old man, his faith sustained him the threat of persecution
3. God has a plan, and His plan is down to the intricate detail. God knows and is in control of the future. Everything that God has predicted has come true exactly as He predicted. Therefore, we should believe and trust that the things He has predicted for the future will one day occur exactly as God has declared.
4. God plans involve governmental authorities not just the church
5. God plans involves us growing in our calling
6. God's plan involves growing where we are.
7. God's plan often takes time
8. God plan requires our unshakable love for him.

As with all of Scripture, the book of Daniel is profitable for our study - 2 Ti 3:16-17

- a. From Daniel and his three friends, we will learn the power of faith and commitment
- b. By studying this book, we can better understand our Lord's references to it - cf. Mk 1:14-15; Mt 24:15-16

Despite some of its more difficult and challenging passages, we can benefit from them as well, as we interpret them.

- a. In the context of the book itself
- b. Consistent with all else the Bible may say on the subject
- c. With the humility and openness that is incumbent upon all who would study and teach God's word - cf. 2 Ti 2:24-25



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DANIEL 1:1-21 - I AM YET A FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD

I. DANIEL'S FAITH AS A "FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD"

A. TURNING POINT IN THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL...

1. The beginning of Babylonian domination - Dan 1:1-2
 - a. In the third year of Jehoiakim (ca. 605 B.C.)
 - b. Jerusalem besieged by Nebuchadnezzar
 - c. Jehoiakim taken into captivity, and precious items taken from the temple
2. This was the first of three times that Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem (605, 597, 586 B.C.)

B. DANIEL AND OTHERS SELECTED FOR SPECIAL TRAINING.

1. Young men taken to serve Nebuchadnezzar - Dan 1:3-7
 - a. They were truly the "cream of the crop" among the captives
 - 1) Good looking with no blemish
 - 2) Gifted with wisdom, knowledge, and ability to learn quickly
 - b. To serve in the king's palace, and be taught the language and literature of the Chaldeans (Babylonians)
 - 1) Given special provisions of the king's food and drink
 - 2) With three years of special training
 - c. Among those selected, four are named, and apparently renamed to honor Babylonian gods
 - 1) Daniel (God is my judge) - Belteshazzar (a servant of Bel)
 - 2) Hananiah (the Lord is gracious) - Shadrach (inspired by the sun god)
 - 3) Mishael (who is what God is?) - Meshach (who is what the moon god is?)
 - 4) Azariah (the Lord helps) - Abed-Nego (servant of Nebo)
2. How would these young men respond?
 - a. Would they submit to the temptations placed before them?
 - b. Would they give in, excusing themselves due to youth and inexperience?

QUESTION - How would you have reacted if you were in their place?



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C. DANIEL MAKES A DECISION...

1. He "purposed in his heart" - Dan 1:8
 - a. He made a commitment
 - b. Something too rarely heard of today, in both young and old
2. His commitment was to "not defile himself" with the king's food
 - a. Possibly unclean food according to Levitical restrictions
 - b. Or food used in idol worship which would cause one to be a participant with such worship - cf. 1 Co 10:20-22

D. HOW DANIEL REMAINED TRUE TO HIS COMMITMENT...

1. He did it with politeness - Dan 1:8b
 - a. Note that "he requested"
 - b. He did not "demand", but respected the authority of those over him
2. He did it with God's help - Dan 1:9
 - a. God gave him favor in the eyes of the chief of eunuchs
 - b. Liken to how Joseph found favor in prison - cf. Gen 39:21
3. He did it through persistence - Dan 1:10-11
 - a. He did not give up after the refusal by the chief of the eunuchs
 - b. He tried something else, going to the steward directly over them
4. He did it through willingness to test his faith - Dan 1:12-15
 - a. He was confident that God's way was the right way
 - b. He was willing to demonstrate the superiority of God's way
 - c. So he asked the steward to give him and his three friends just water and vegetables for ten days



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E. THE VALUE OF SUCH FAITH SEEN IN ITS RESULTS.

1. It affected the lives of others! - Dan 1:15-16
 - a. It had blessed the countenance of Daniel and his friends
 - b. It then blessed the rest of the young men under the care of the steward
2. God blessed Daniel and his three friends even more! - Dan 1:17-20
 - a. God gave them knowledge, skill, and wisdom, and to Daniel He gave understanding in visions and dreams
 - b. They became the best of the young men who had been trained, and served in the presence of Nebuchadnezzar
 - c. The king found them better than all his magicians and astrologers
3. Daniel continued in the court of Babylon nearly seventy years! - Dan 1:21
 - a. Even to the first year of Cyrus of Persia (539 B.C.)
 - b. Eventually becoming provincial ruler and chief administrator over all others - Dan 2:48

II. LESSONS AND APPLICATIONS FROM DANIEL'S FAITH

A. HOW TO SUCCEED IN KEEPING OUR COMMITMENT TO THE LORD...

1. *Be polite*
 - a. There is never any reason to be rude or arrogant
 - b. Impoliteness just aggravates a situation rather than helps it - cf. Pro 15:1
2. *Seek God's help*
 - a. Without God, any effort is more likely to fail - cf. Psa 127:1-2
 - b. God seeks to help those who are loyal to Him - cf. 2 Chr 16:9
3. *Be persistent*
 - a. Don't give up trying after meeting the first obstacle
 - b. Remember what Jesus taught about persistence:
 - 1) Those who keep on "asking, seeking, knocking" will receive, find, have doors opened to them - Mt. 7:7-11
 - 2) The parable of the persistent widow - Lk 18:1-8
4. *Be willing to test your faith*
 - a. If not willing, how committed are you to trusting God?
 - b. Yet God often invited people to test His promises - cf. Mal 3:10
 - c. And so does Jesus - cf. Jn 7:16-17; Mt 6:31-34



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B. SOME APPLICATIONS

1. School-age children

- a. Out from underneath their mother's apron for the first time
- b. They will be faced with making decisions

Question -- Will they have the faith of Daniel?

2. College-bound students

- a. Moving away from home for the first time
- b. Leaving a spiritual environment at home, for one that is likely very worldly

Question -- Will they live and act with the same sort of commitment found in Daniel?

3. Adults in the workplace

- a. Tempted to accept jobs which may require one compromise convictions
- b. Called upon to lie for the boss, show loyalty to the company though illegal

Question-- Will they have "the faith of a fifteen-year-old"?

4. Those with unbelieving spouses

- a. Having to serve God and raise their children in the ways of the Lord on their own
- b. With little or no moral and religious support from their life mate

Question-- Will they have the "purpose of heart" that Daniel had?

CONCLUSION

1. What have we learned from "the faith of a fifteen-yearold" like Daniel...?

- a. Even those who are young need to make a personal commitment to serve the Lord
- b. One can be steadfast in their purpose to serve the Lord without arrogance
- c. We should look to the Lord for help, and be willing to trust in His providence
- d. God will bless and provide for those who put their trust in Him and His will

2. Daniel is not the only person to demonstrate such faith in his youth...

- a. We made mention of Joseph earlier
- b. We have other examples in the O.T., such as David and Josiah
- c. And of course, let's not forget the example of Mary (the mother of Jesus), and that of Timothy



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CHAPTER 2

The Kingdom That Shall Never Be Destroyed

Daniel 2:1-49

INTRODUCTION

- 1) In Dan 2, we read about Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's interpretation...
 - a. Nebuchadnezzar challenges his magicians, sorcerers, et al, to tell him both the dream and its interpretation, and they are unable - Dan 2:1-13
 - b. God reveals the secret of the dream to Daniel in a night vision - Dan 2:14-23
 - c. Daniel approaches the king and explains that God has made known to him both the dream and its interpretation - Dan 2:24-30
 - d. Daniel then tells the dream, and gives the interpretation of it, to the amazement of Nebuchadnezzar - Dan 2:31-49 (read)

- 2) The king had seen a great image
 - a) With head of gold
 - b) With chest and arms of silver
 - c) With belly and thighs of bronze
 - d) With legs of iron, and feet mixed with iron and clay
- 2) The great image was destroyed by a small stone made without hands
 - a) The image representing the rise and fall of four world empires
 - b) The stone representing a kingdom that God would set up

- 3) The king praises God, and exalts Daniel along with his three friends
 2. There are certainly two key thoughts expressed in this chapter...
 - a. God is a revealer of secrets - Dan 2:19,22,28-29,47
 - b. God can make know the future and bring it pass - Dan 2:28-29,21
 3. But of particular interest to us ought to be the "kingdom" in verse 44...
 - a. Which the God of heaven Himself shall set up
 - b. Which shall never be destroyed, but consume other kingdoms and stand forever

4. Several questions naturally come to mind concerning this "kingdom"
 - a. When would God set it up?
 - b. Has it been set up as foretold?
 - c. If it has, and if it shall never be destroyed...
 - 1) Where is it now?
 - 2) What is the future of this kingdom?
 - 3) Can we be a part of this indestructible kingdom?



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I. THE PREPARATION FOR THE INDESTRUCTIBLE KINGDOM

A. "IN THE DAYS OF THESE KINGS..." (44)

1. Daniel describes the image as depicting four kingdoms which shall rise and fall
2. The first one is Babylon - Dan 2:37-38
3. With Babylon as the starting point, world history confirms that the next three kingdoms would be:
 - a. The Medo-Persian empire, represented by the chest and arms of silver
 - b. The Grecian empire, represented by the belly and thighs of bronze
 - c. The Roman empire, represented by the legs of iron, with feet mixed with iron and clay
4. Thus one could look for the establishment of the "indestructible kingdom" in the days of the Roman empire

B. WHEN "THE TIME IS FULFILLED"

1. Notice what John the Baptist began preaching during the days of the Roman empire ("the kingdom of heaven is at hand") - Mt 3:1-2
2. Jesus proclaimed this also, adding "the time is fulfilled" - Mk 1:14-15
 - a. What "time" was fulfilled?
 - b. The time described by Daniel!

II. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDESTRUCTIBLE KINGDOM

A. DURING JESUS' EARTHLY MINISTRY, IT WAS "AT HAND"

1. This is what both John and Jesus proclaimed - Mt 3:1-2; Mk 1:14-15
2. Yet after Jesus' death, there were those who were still waiting for the kingdom - e.g., Joseph of Arimathea, Lk 23:50-51

B. BUT FOLLOWING THE ASCENSION OF JESUS...

1. He is far above all principality, power, might, dominion - Ep 1:20-21
2. All has been made subject to Him - 1 Pe 3:22
3. He is ruler over the kings of the earth - Re 1:5
4. He rules the nations with a rod of iron - Re 2:26-27

-- He truly has all authority in heaven and on earth! - cf. Mt 28:18

C. THIS SUPPORTS WHAT IS REVEALED LATER IN DANIEL...

1. Consider Dan 7:13-14
 - a. Where one like the Son of Man approaches the Ancient of Days (God)
 - b. And is given dominion, glory, and a kingdom which shall not be destroyed
2. Compare this with Ac 1:9
 - a. Daniel describes the ascension from a heavenly perspective
 - b. Whereas Luke describes it from an earthly perspective!



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III. THE NATURE OF THE INDESTRUCTIBLE KINGDOM

A. THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT THIS KINGDOM...

1. It was described by Daniel as a "stone cut...without hands which became a great mountain and filled the whole earth" - Dan 2:34-35
 - a. "without hands" suggests it is not your ordinary kingdom
 - b. Also, it would start small and then grow larger

2. Compare this with what Jesus taught about the nature of His kingdom
 - a. His kingdom is not of this world - Jn 18:36; cf. Ro 14:17
 - b. It would start small, and grow to encompass the earth - Mt 13:31-33

B. THIS KINGDOM THEREFORE INVOLVES THOSE IN THE CHURCH...

1. The Christians at Colosse were in the kingdom - Co 1:12-13
2. Those at Thessalonica likewise - 1 Th 2:12
3. Along with the seven churches in Asia - Re 1:6,9
4. Indeed, all Christians receive their part in this "indestructible kingdom" - He 12:28
 - a. Including us gathered here this day!
 - b. Fulfilling the statement that this kingdom would fill the whole earth!
 - c. For here we are, on the other side of the planet from Jerusalem, yet citizens of this kingdom foretold in Daniel!

IV. THE FUTURE OF THIS INDESTRUCTIBLE KINGDOM

A. IT WILL LAST FOREVER...

1. As Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar - Dan 2:44
 - a. "which shall never be destroyed"
 - b. "it shall stand forever"
2. As the writer to the Hebrews stated: "a kingdom which cannot be shaken" - He 12:28
3. As the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary: "of His kingdom there will be no end" - Lk 1:31-33

B. AT CHRIST'S COMING, IT WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE FATHER...

1. As taught by Paul to the Corinthians - 1 Co 15:23-26
 - a. When Christ comes, He shall deliver the kingdom to God the Father, having put an end to all rule, authority, and power
 - b. Until then, Christ shall reign until all enemies are placed under His feet, the last enemy being death

2. As Jesus taught in the parable of the tares - Mt 13:40-43
 - a. At the end of the age, His angels will gather out of the kingdom those that offend and practice lawlessness
 - b. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father



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CONCLUSION

1. And so this kingdom...
 - a. Foretold by Daniel, proclaimed by John the Baptist and Jesus Himself
 - b. Was begun in the days of the Roman empire, with Christ as its king and His disciples as its citizens

2. It is an indestructible kingdom...
 - a. That continues, ever growing
 - b. With the hope of a glorious future in eternity

3. But let us not forget the last question raised in our introduction: Can we be a part of this indestructible kingdom?
 - a. Yes! For Jesus and His apostles tell us how
 - 1) We must be born again of water and the Spirit - Jn 3:5; cf. Ti 3:5
 - 2) An illusion to baptism, commanded of penitent believers - Mt 28:19; Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38
 - b. But beware, some in the kingdom may one day be cast out!
 - 1) As Jesus warned in the parable of the tares - Mt 13:41-43
 - 2) Telling us later of the necessity of an enduring faith - Re 2:10

Therefore, once we have been obedient to the gospel (cf. Ro 6:17-18) we must remain diligent in our faith, if we wish to experience the future *glories THE KINGDOM WHICH SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED*