



Context

Historical Context

- Book of Daniel spans the length of the entire Babylonian exile
- Daniel taken captive to Babylon in ca. 605 BC
- Daniel lives through entire exile
- Babylonians later conquered by the Medes & Persians
- Chronology of the historical narrative: ch. 1-4, 7, 8, 5, 9, 6

Redemptive-Historical Context

- The people of God captured by the Gentiles
- The people of God persecuted and afflicted by the Gentiles
- Who sovereignly rules the earth?

Theme

The Most High, the God of Daniel, sovereignly rules and reigns supreme over all mankind. Therefore His people are brave in the face of persecution.

God is God over all peoples of the earth, not just the Jews.

God has humbled even the great king Nebuchadnezzar, conqueror of Judah.

The Most High Rules; All Other Are Humbled – Daniel 4, 5

- Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a tree

- Belshazzar's vision of writing on the wall

The Persecuted People of God Are Brave – Daniel 3, 6

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace

- Daniel in the lion's den

The Kingdom of Christ – Daniel 2, 7-8

- Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a large statue crushed by a rock

- Daniel's dream of four beasts and the Ancient of Days

Exile and Return – Daniel 1, 9

- Daniel and his friend stay faithful during the exile

- Yahweh is faithful to bring His people back from exile
- The true return from exile is accomplished by Christ alone

The Future of the People of God – Daniel 10-12

A Study Outline for Daniel

- I. Chapter 1-9 – God alone is sovereign; His people are afflicted by pseudo-sovereigns
 - A. Ch. 1 – Exile; People of God afflicted
 - B. Ch. 2 – Four empires brought low by God’s king (type in history)
 - C. Ch. 3 – King sets himself up as god; People of God afflicted
 - D. Ch. 4 – Nebuchadnezzar brought low
 - D’. Ch. 5 – Belshazzar brought low
 - C’. Ch. 6 – King sets himself up as god; People of God afflicted
 - B’. Ch. 7 – Four empires brought low by God’s king (eschatological)
 - B’. Ch. 8 – Four empires brought low
 - A’. Ch. 9 – Return from exile; Messiah afflicted
- II. Chapter 10-12 – Visions of the future