

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(Daniel)

I. General Introduction to Daniel

-Title: named after Daniel, the author and principle character of the book (1:6)

-Author: Daniel (6:28-7:2, 6f.; 8:1f.; 9:2f.; 10:2f.; 11:1; 12:5f.; Matt. 24:15)

-Date: 6th Century BC (not 2nd Century)

-Purpose: to comfort and encourage the Jewish exiles by revealing God's program for them, both during and after the time of Gentile supremacy in the world

-Structure:

I. Daniel's Vocation (chs. 1-6)

II. Daniel's Visions (chs. 7-12)

II. General Overview of Daniel

-Daniel's Vocation: The King's Choice Food (ch. 1); The King's First Dream (ch. 2); The King's Golden Image (ch. 3); The King's Second Dream (ch. 4); The Handwriting on the Wall (ch. 5); The Lion's Den (ch. 6)

-Daniel's Visions: Four Beasts (ch. 7); Ram and Goat (ch. 8); Seventy Weeks (ch. 9); Man Dressed in Linen (ch. 10); Kings (ch. 11); Latter Days (ch. 12)

III. Prominent Themes in Daniel

-God's Character: mercy (9:9); power (3:17; 4:35); providence (4:29-31, 37); righteousness (9:7, 16); wisdom (2:20-22); wrath (9:16);

-Prominent Role of Pagan Leaders in the Purposes of God (Ezra 1:2; Is. 46:10, 11)

-Sovereignty of God Over the Nations (2:21; 4:34, 35; see also Jer. 27:6; 28:14)

-Importance of Integrity and Faithfulness (Ezek. 14:14, 20)

IV. Christ in Daniel

-In the Prophet: parallels between Daniel and Christ

-In the Prophecy: Christ is the central focus of the book (2:34, 35, 44; 3:25; 6:22; 7:9, 10, 13, 14; 9:24; 10:5, 6; 12:2)

V. Practical Lessons in Daniel

1) God's Plan

2) God's Deliverer

3) Our Response