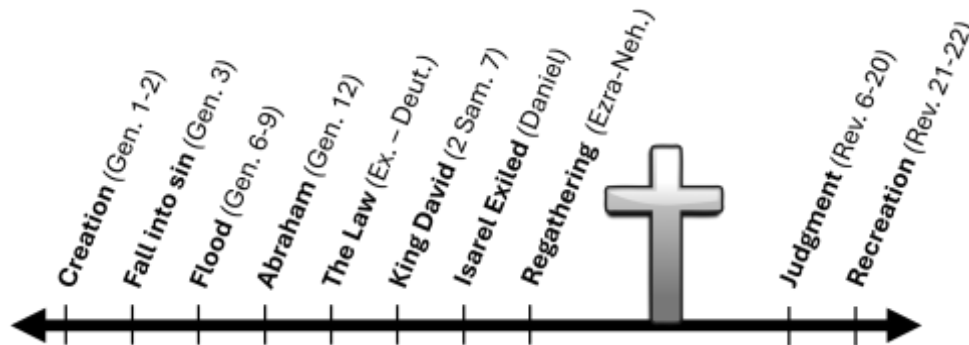


INTRODUCTION TO DANIEL

HOPE IN THE MOST HIGH GOD

A. Historical Background



1. Understanding Israel's Exile

- After mankind fell into sin, God _____ a Savior through a *seed of the woman* (Gen 3:15). Then God chose Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and their descendants, to be a special nation through which He would bless the whole world (Gen. 12:1-3).
- These promises were extended and narrowed to specifically include a descendant of King David as the king of an eternal _____ with which God would bless the whole world (2 Sam. 7:1-13).
- When God gave the Law to the nation of Israel through Moses, terms for obedience and for disobedience were included—increasingly difficult phases of _____, with the most severe being exile from the Promised Land (Lev. 26:27-46, Deut. 28:58-64).
- After the kingdom was divided into Northern (Israel) and Southern (Judah), the Northern Kingdom experienced exile first at the hands of the Assyrian Empire in 722 BC because they had persisted in various corruptions and _____ (2 Kings 17:5-18).
- Judah lasted longer, but they too had a history of breaking the Law of Moses through corruption and idolatry. For Judah, God had specifically sent word through His prophets that _____ would take them captive (2 Kings 20:16-18, Habakuk, Jeremiah).

2. Tracking World History In Daniel's Days

- 620 BC – Daniel born around this time
- 612 BC – Babylon takes Nineveh, crippling the Assyrian Empire
- 609 BC – Egypt kills King Josiah at Megiddo; Babylon defeats Assyria and Egypt at Haran
- 605 BC – Babylon defeats Egypt at Carchemish, Nebuchadnezzar is crowned king, Jerusalem falls, and Daniel is taken as a captive to Babylon
- 597, 586 BC – In two more waves of deportation, Jerusalem & Judah are completely defeated

B. Outline

PROLOGUE | Hebrew Introduction – Placing Daniel in Babylon (1:1-2:4)

PART 1 | Aramaic Main Body – Announcements to the Nations (2:5-7:28)

- A. Vision of kingdoms (ch 2 – image with four valuable metals, ultimately crushed)
- B. Civil disobedience (ch 3 – God delivers from the fiery furnace)
 - C. A Gentile king responds to the God of Heaven (ch 4 – Nebuchadnezzar)
 - C'. A Gentile king rejects the God of Heaven (ch 5 – Belshazzar)
- B'. Civil disobedience (ch 6 – God delivers from the lion's den)
- A'. Vision of kingdoms (ch 7 – four grotesque beasts, ultimately defeated)

PART 2 | Hebrew Expansion – Visions for God's People (8:1-12:13)

- A. Daniel's Vision of the Ram and Goat (8)
- B. Daniel's Vision of the Seventy Sevens (9)
- C. Daniel's Vision of the End (10-12)

C. Theme

1. The overarching theme of the book of Daniel is God's ultimate _____ over everything.
2. The practical theme for the believer is living with _____ in the Most High God.

D. Value of the Book

1. _____ Prophecy builds confidence in Scripture.
2. Detailed Prophecy help us to understand God's _____ as He unfolds His plan to fulfill all promises to bless the world through Israel.
3. God's view of world events demonstrates His sovereignty in the midst of chaotic and distressing times, bringing _____ and confidence for those who trust in God.
4. The example of Daniel and his friends encourages us to live in dependence upon God in a _____ society.