



UNDERSTANDING PROPHECY:

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL WEEK 4

PREPARED BY:

Andrea Gehrett

OUTLINE & TENTATIVE DATES

5/2

01

INTRODUCTION: AN UNFOLDING OF GOD'S
STORY THROUGH AGES, TIMES, & MYSTERIES

5/9

02

WHO ARE THE JEWS?
PAST, PRESENT, &
FUTURE

6/27

09

DANIEL CH. 6

5/16

03

WHO IS THE CHURCH?
PAST, PRESENT, &
FUTURE

7/4

10

DANIEL CH. 7

5/23

04

WHO ARE THE
GENTILES? BEGIN
DANIEL CH. 1

7/11

11

DANIEL CH. 8

5/30

05

DANIEL CH. 2

7/18

12

DANIEL CH. 9

6/6

06

DANIEL CH. 3

7/25

13

DANIEL CH. 10

6/13

07

DANIEL CH. 4

8/1

14

DANIEL CH. 11

6/20

08

DANIEL CH. 5

8/8

15

DANIEL CH. 12

04

WHO ARE THE GENTILES?

DANIEL CHAPTER 1

THE GENTILES

And Jesus said,
"Jerusalem will be
trampled by Gentiles
until the times of the
Gentiles are
fulfilled."
Luke 21:24



When the Jews fell into idolatry and harlotry, they were temporarily supplanted by the Gentiles until the iniquity of Israel was full. See Genesis 15:13-16 for another example of the "iniquity" of a people group having a set time.

Gentiles are considered anyone not a Jew (national Israel) or believer in the Church (Jews or Gentiles who have confessed Christ as Messiah). The unbelieving Gentiles are sometimes referred to as the nations. The book of Daniel outlines the "times of the Gentiles" referred to by Jesus.



DANIEL AT A GLANCE

PAGE 2

- Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, has two dreams interpreted by Daniel
- Nebuchadnezzar's son, Belshazzar, sees the writing on the wall
- Daniel has a vision of the Four Beasts
- Daniel has a vision of the Ancient of Days
- Daniel has a vision of a Ram and Goat
- Daniel has a vision of the 70 Weeks
- Daniel has a vision of the Glorious Man
- Daniel has a vision of warring kings of the North and the South

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: DIVIDED KINGDOM GOES INTO EXILE - FOCUS ON JUDAH TAKEN CAPTIVE BY KINGDOM OF BABYLON

Read: 2 Kings 23:26-37

- Why did God's wrath burn against Judah? What was the consequence?
- Who aids Assyria and kills Josiah, King of Judah? Who did he appoint as ruler over Judah in place of Josiah? Who did the new king answer to?
- How long did Jehoiakim reign? How was he described in verse 37?

Read: Jeremiah 25:1-14, Jeremiah 3:6-8, 14-15

- What is Jeremiah's charge against Judah? What was the message of all the prophets sent to Judah?
- How does God refer to King Nebuchadnezzar, a pagan king?
- How does God define the relationship between Israel and Himself?
- Our previous study revealed that because of Israel's idolatry, they were cast off as a wife. How does Jeremiah 25:10 describe Israel's punishment?
- What was the time set for Israel's punishment while in Babylon?
- What would happen at the end of the set time?

Read: 2 Kings 24:1-7

- Who is Jehoiakim subordinate to?
- Read also 2 Chronicles 33:1-11. What were the sins of Manasseh that would not be pardoned by God?
- Who is the king of Egypt subordinate to in verse 7? What does this tell you about the Babylonian kingdom at that time?
- How does God describe the Babylonians/Chaldeans in Habakkuk 1:6-11? Who raised them up? Who do they give credit to?

Read: 2 Kings 24:10-16, 2 Chronicles 36:15-21

- Who was taken captive? Who remained? Why?
- Describe what happened at the house of God during the invasion.
- Leviticus 25:1-7 explains the law regarding the Sabbath. If Judah was being punished for 70 year, then how long had it been since they had honored the Sabbath as God had commanded? What does this tell you about God? About man?
- What was the cost of disobedience for Israel & Judah?

DANIEL CHAPTER ONE

- Where were the articles of the house of God placed once in Babylon?
- Shinar has been known as another name for Babylon. Can you name other events that happened in the land of Shinar? (HINT: Genesis 11 & 14)
- Genesis 10 documents the descendants of Noah and the beginning of the Gentiles. Typically, genealogies are in list-fashion. So-n-so begat so-n-so, etc. But verses 8-12 expound details on one person. Who is it? Why do you think this is significant? Which kingdom did he begin?
- If the Tower of Babel which occurred just before the calling of Abraham and the establishment of a new unconditional covenant by God (Gen. 12) foreshadows a future event, then describe how God's taking His people back to "Babel" during the exile would signify a new and forthcoming covenant. (Jeremiah 31:31-33)
- When Babylon took over, why do you think they exported the Israelites from their native land?
- Why were the choicest of men desired by King Nebuchadnezzar?
- What did the king's training program look like?
- Why do you believe the king provisioned the same delicacies and the same wine that he enjoyed?
- Why do you think the Babylonians renamed the Hebrews taken captive? Who renamed Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah?
 - Daniel (God is my Judge) to Belteshazzar (Bel Protect the King)
 - Hananiah (the Lord is Gracious) to Shadrach (Command of Aku)
 - Mishael (Who is like the Lord?) to Meshach (Who is What Aku is)
 - Azariah (the Lord is my Helper) to Abed-nego (servant of Nego)
- Bel was the chief Babylonian god, Aku was a Sumerian moon god, and Nego was a god of vegetation or wisdom. What significance do you see in the new Babylonian names for Daniel and his friends?
- What did Daniel purpose in his heart and request of the chief of the eunuchs?

- If partaking of pagan food and drink devoted to idols meant that Daniel would be honoring those deities, then why do you think he would protest the prescribed diet but NOT the change of name?
- Describe Daniel's relationship with the chief of eunuchs. Who gave him that favor? Can you name another instance when a Hebrew prisoner found favor with their captor? (Gen. 39:3-5) Why?
- How did Ashpenaz feel about Daniel's request? What does this reveal about the type of leader Nebuchadnezzar was? What did Ashpenaz think would happen?
- After the chief's rebuttal, whom did Daniel address with the proposed plan? Do you think the steward had influence over the chief? Why do you think the chief silently accepted the plan? Perhaps ten days was such a short period of time in the 3-year training program? The steward and the chief allowing this test further shows the favor God had given them because it still put them in contempt of the king's command.
- Why do you suppose Daniel only proposed vegetables and water for their diet? What was the result? Why do you believe this happened?
- What specific skills did God give these four men? Can you name other instances where God divinely gave skills to achieve a purpose? Read:
 - Exodus 31:1-11
 - 1 Kings 3:5, 11-15
 - Genesis 41:14-16, 25
- Why did God give Bezalel, Solomon, Joseph, Daniel and friends these gifts? What gifts has He given you to further His purposes?
- Describe the king's examination of them at the set time.

Read: Psalm 119:115, Hebrews 11:24-26

- What is the risk of taking a stand? What is the reward?
- Do you think Daniel knew these things? What does this tell you about his faith?

Read: 2 Chronicles 16:9, 1 Samuel 2:30

- What promises does God make to help one step into faith?

Read: 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

- How does this passage challenge you in your walk?