

The Book of Daniel

An Overview

Robert C. Newman



Overview of Daniel

- The first six chapters are largely narrative, with some prophecies interspersed. They narrate the life of Daniel from his exile in Babylon up to his old age.
- The last six chapters are largely prophetic, with only a bit of narrative regarding how each vision came to him.

Mostly Narrative (chs 1-6)

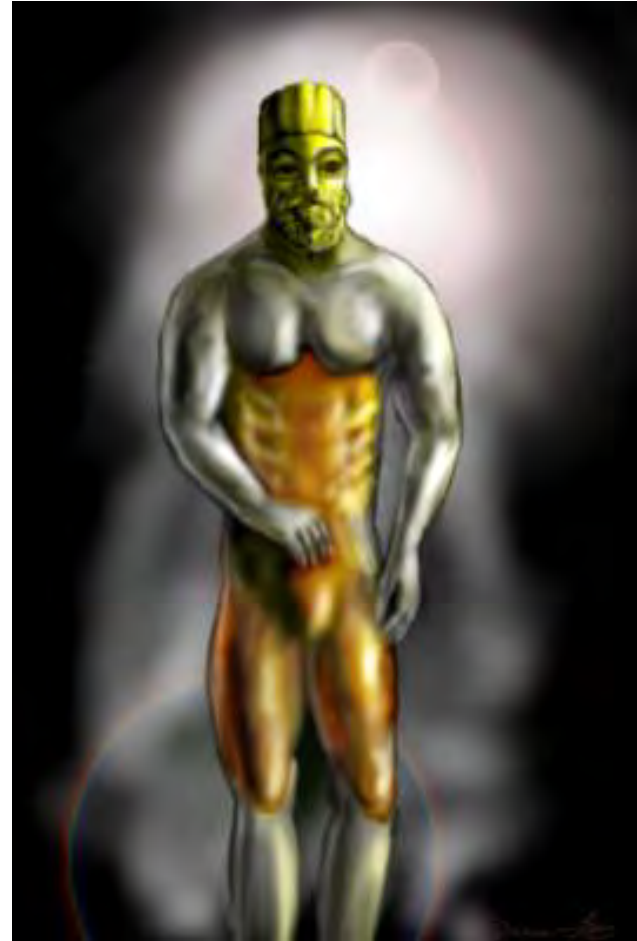
- Daniel trained in royal service (1)
- Nebuchadnezzar's image dream (2)
- The golden image & fiery furnace (3)
- Nebuchadnezzar's tree dream (4)
- The handwriting on the wall (5)
- Daniel in the lions' den (6)

Daniel trained in royal service (1)

- Daniel is exiled to Babylon as a young boy.
- He & other Israelites are drafted into training for royal government service.
- Daniel & his 3 friends refuse to eat the royal food.
- They find favor and come to excel in their studies.

Nebuchadnezzar's image (2)

- An unusual image w/ gold head, silver upper body, bronze lower body, iron legs, iron & clay feet
- Daniel interprets the parts as picturing world empires to come.



Golden image & fiery furnace (3)

- Nebuchadnezzar has a golden image built which he commands all to bow down & worship.
- Daniel's companions refuse to worship the image & are thrown in a fiery furnace.
- God rescues them in the midst of the fire.



Nebuchadnezzar's tree dream (4)

- A mighty tree is cut down, leaving only stump & roots.
- Daniel: judgment to come for pride of Nebuchadnezzar.
- Dream fulfilled: Nebuchadnezzar's pride, madness, & recovery.



Handwriting on the wall (5)

- Belshazzar uses the sacred dishware from God's temple.
- A mysterious message appears.
- Daniel: your empire is at an end.
- That night the kingdom is taken.



Daniel in the lions' den (6)

- Daniel is punished for praying to anyone but the king.
- God protects Daniel from the lions, but his accusers are later devoured.



Mostly Prophecy (chs 7-12)

- Daniel's dream of the four beasts (7)
- His vision of the ram & goat (8)
- His prayer & the message of the 70 sevens (9)
- His vision of the heavenly man (10)
- The angel's message (11-12)

The four beasts (7)

- Lion, bear, leopard, & terrible beast appear.
- Then a throne scene w/ Ancient of Days
- Son of Man receives universal kingdom.
- Four kingdoms to come, then judgment, then eternal kingdom of saints



Ram & goat (8)

- Ram w/ 2 unequal horns conquers all.
- He in turn is defeated by a goat with 1 horn, which horn breaks & is replaced by 4 horns.
- Ram = Medes & Persians
- Goat = Greece



The 70 sevens (9)

- Daniel repents for self & Israel.
- God sends an angel with this message.
- 70 sevens determined upon your people & your holy city...



The heavenly man (10)

- Daniel sees a shining man, is terrorized
- Is this Gabriel?
- Mentions princes of Persia & Greece (seemingly angelic)
- Comes with message for Daniel



The angel's message (11-12)

- The doings of the coming kings of the north and the south
- The king who exalts himself (Antichrist?)
- The end-times
- The wise will understand at that time.



The End

What are some of the practical values of Daniel's prophecy?



Some Practical Values

- God's people must typically live as a minority in their dispersion. We need to know how to do so.
- We (like Daniel) need to do our best in the situation God puts us in.
- We need to use the opportunities He provides.
- We gain strength and encouragement from knowing how it all ends.