

The Book of Daniel: Bible Study 2020

Introduction and Chapter One



Main Themes

- A political book
- God's sovereignty over earthly rulers and kingdoms
- How does God continue to work his plans when all seems lost?
- How can God's people remain pure?
- God the giver
 - gives Judah into the hands of Babylon
 - gives dreams and interpretation
 - gives the young men gifts

Babylon: Land of Exile

- Fall of Jerusalem in reign of Jehoiachim
- Nebuchadnezzar II ruler of Babylon
- Exile 587/586 BC



Babylon: Land of Exile

- 2 Kings 25
 - ¹And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem, and laid siege to it; they built siege-works against it all round.
 - ^{21b}So Judah went into exile out of its land.



The Book of Daniel



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Chapter 1

- The political setting - resistance
- Domination by Babylon
- Temple vessels removed – religious symbols placed “under” the Babylonian gods.
- v2 Hebrew “Shinar” same word used for Babel in Genesis 11. Human hubris



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Chapter 1

- Young men chosen probably from royal or priestly families
- Dominance by name change
- Daniel refuses food
- Danger of being “defiled”
- Purity, integrity, assimilation
- Festival food
at a time of mourning
- Food of the wealthy
a product of imperialism



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Chapter 1

- Daniel receives God's *hesed*
 - favour, compassion, steadfastness, faithkeeping
 - *hesed* is the ground of God's redeeming action
- Young men stand before the King
 - folklore element
 - Court stories
 - setting of awe and majesty
- Daniel serves until the time of Cyrus
 - spans the time of exile.

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Interpretation

- Setting of exile and resistance and the theme of hubris stimulates art and political movements
- Josephus – toned it down!
- Quakers and Christian radicalism
- 5th Monarchy men – 4 empires Dan 2&7
- Verdi & Austrian rule over Italy – Nabucco
- How do we read this in a dominant culture?

Chorus of Hebrew Slaves

