

OVERVIEW OF DANIEL

EXAMINING THE CHRONOLOGY AND THEMES OF DANIEL.

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CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE

JEHOIAKIM RULES IN JUDAH (608-597 BC)
2 KINGS 23:36-24:7; 2 CHRONICLES 36:4-8

NEBUCHADNEZZAR BESIEGES JERUSALEM (605-602)
2 KINGS 24:1-7; 2 CHRONICLES 36:5-7; JEREMIAH 25:1-11
DANIEL INCLUDED IN THOSE TAKEN INTO EXILE - **DANIEL 1**

A DREAM OF A STATUE (604-603)
DANIEL 2 - 2ND YEAR OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR

THE FIERY FURNACE (UNKNOWN YEAR)
DANIEL 3 - DURING NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S REIGN

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S HUMILIATION (UNKNOWN YEAR)
DANIEL 4 - DURING NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S REIGN

VISION OF FOUR BEASTS (553)
DANIEL 7 - 1ST YEAR OF BELSHAZZAR

VISION OF THE RAM AND GOAT (551-550)
DANIEL 8 - 3RD YEAR OF BELSHAZZAR

THE WRITING ON THE WALL (539)
DANIEL 5 - PERSIA CONQUERS BABYLON

DANIEL'S PRAYER (538-537)
DANIEL 9 - 1ST YEAR OF "DARIUS THE MEDE"

THE LION'S DEN (UNKNOWN)
DANIEL 6 - DURING THE RULE OF "DARIUS THE MEDE"

LAST SET OF VISIONS (537-536)
DANIEL 10-12 - 3RD YEAR OF CYRUS

MAJOR THEMES



MORALITY IN EXILE

DANIEL PROPHESED DURING THE EXILE TO BABYLON. **CHAPTERS 1, 3, 6, AND 9** ADDRESS THE DIFFICULTY OF MAINTAINING YAHWEH'S HOLINESS IN THE MIDST OF AN UNGODLY NATION.



DREAMS AND VISIONS

THE BABYLONIANS AND PERSIANS BELIEVED THAT DREAMS AND VISIONS WERE THE KEY TO DIVINE KNOWLEDGE. **CHAPTERS 2, 4, 5, 7-8, AND 10-12** HIGHLIGHT YAHWEH'S POWER OVER PROPHETIC DREAMS.



THE FIVE KINGDOMS

IN **CHAPTERS 2 AND 7**, DANIEL SEES VISIONS OF FOUR FUTURE KINGDOMS LEADING TO AN ETERNAL FIFTH KINGDOM. **CHAPTERS 5, 8, AND 10-12** ZOOM IN ON THE RISE AND FALL OF SOME OF THESE KINGDOMS.

DARIUS THE MEDE

"DARIUS THE MEDE" IN **DANIEL 5:31 AND 9:1** IS ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT THE FAMOUS BABYLONIAN KING DARIUS THE GREAT (ALSO KNOWN AS DARIUS I), FOR TWO REASONS. (1) DARIUS THE GREAT WAS NOT DESCENDED FROM THE MEDES, AND (2) THE ANGEL IN **DANIEL 11:1** REFERS TO DARIUS IN THE PAST TENSE, SPEAKING DURING THE 3RD YEAR OF CYRUS (**DANIEL 10:1**).

GIVEN THIS, IT IS LIKELY THAT "DARIUS THE MEDE" WAS ANOTHER NAME/TITLE USED TO REFER TO GUBARU, A MEDE GOVERNOR INSTALLED BY CYRUS. GUBARU IS KNOWN IN SECULAR HISTORY TO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING UP LOCAL GOVERNANCE FOLLOWING THE PERSIAN CONQUEST OF BABYLON. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT DANIEL RECORDS "DARIUS THE MEDE" DOING IN **DANIEL 6:1-5**. ADDITIONALLY, DANIEL DESCRIBES THIS PERSON'S RULE IN THE PASSIVE SENSE - HE "RECEIVED" THE KINGDOM IN **5:31**, AND "WAS MADE KING" IN **9:1**. THE LANGUAGE BETTER FITS THE RULE OF GUBARU (A RULER UNDER CYRUS) THAN THE RULE OF DARIUS THE GREAT.