



☆ ☆ Commentary ☆ ☆

In 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar invaded and conquered Israel. He removed a number of the young Jewish nobility to Babylon, where he could train them in Babylonian ways and put them to work in his kingdom. Among those taken were Daniel and several of his friends. These teenagers were ripped from their homes, their family, their whole way of life.

The book of Daniel can be divided into two parts.

In the first six chapters: Daniel and others are taken to Babylon; Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream of an image; his friends survive the fiery furnace; he interprets the handwriting on the wall; he survives the lions' den. Daniel and his friends are loyal to God and they become a living testimony to God in a strange land.

In the last six chapters: Daniel has vivid, symbolic visions about the future of Israel, world kingdoms, and the kingdom of God—exposing us to some of God's long-term plan for the world. Everything that God has predicted has come true exactly as He predicted and we should believe and trust that the things He has predicted for the future will one day occur exactly as God has declared. The last days prophesied here seem frightening, but don't be afraid. Keep your eyes on the Lord Jesus.

Daniel's integrity as a man of God gained him favor with the world, yet he refused to compromise his faith in God. Even under the intimidation of kings and rulers, Daniel remained steadfast in his commitment to God. Daniel also teaches us that, no matter whom we are dealing with, no matter what their status is, we are to treat them with compassion.

Like Daniel, we are surrounded by our own "Babylon." We live in a world that has set itself against God. God is greater than any persecution that could come upon us. Whether God chooses to deliver us or not, He is always worthy of our trust. God knows what is best, and He honors those who trust and obey Him. It is up to us to choose to follow His ways or the world's. We must determine in our hearts to obey and be faithful to the ways of the Lord. And when we do, He blesses us and leads us through whatever comes our way.

Who is the main character in the Book of Daniel? God Himself—the Revealer of Mysteries, the Sovereign King over all kings and governments. God had a plan for Israel and God continues to work his plans even when all seems lost.

