

DANIEL

Part II

Brief Review – Daniel writes during the exile from amongst the exiled in positions of leadership

God reveals His glory in six separate stories recorded in chapters 1-6 that take place in the palaces and presence of the kings of the earth

Chapters 7-12 focus on God's glory that will be revealed through His sovereignty over the future

1. The Significance of Prophetic Literature

A) Foretelling – revealing what will happen in the future, reveals a unique aspect of God's sovereignty

> The God of Israel not only reigns over the nations, He reigns over time (Isaiah 41:21-23)

B) Over half of the book of Daniel is prophetic in this sense of the word

> God's sovereignty and glory are revealed in and through His Lordship over all creation

This will prove that He is God

The future will reveal His commitment to His glory

His promises about the future give us hope

C) To dismiss or diminish the value of prophetic literature is to

> Dismiss or diminish a major portion of God's Word

> Minimize the means for revealing His glory

> Reject a source of great hope that God has given to us.

* Not only does God reveal His plans for the future, He expects us to understand what He has revealed

Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24:15-16)

Jesus on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:25-27)

Paul's instructions to the Thessalonians (1 Thes. 4:13, 18; 5:1-4; 2 Thes. 2:1-5, 9-12)

Peter's instructions (2 Peter 3:10-13)

2. The Dangers of Prophetic Literature

A) Missing the big picture because we are overly concerned about details

> Important to remember that prophetic literature is sometimes like a mountain range

B) In focusing upon the big picture we miss the significance of the details

- > The disciples saw the big picture of Jesus as the Messiah who will reign forever
- > They didn't understand the Suffering Servant prophecies

So when Jesus tells them exact details about what is going to happen they totally miss it (Matthew 16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19)

C) Believing that prophetic literature is easy to understand

- > The visions were difficult for Daniel to receive and understand (Daniel 7:15, 28; 8:27)

3. Daniel's Prophecies

A) The Big Pictures in Daniel's Prophecies

- > The rise and fall of major earthly kingdoms

Babylonian empire / Persian empire / Greek empire / Roman empire

The last earthly kingdom which will unite the whole world in rebellion against God (Daniel 7:23-25)

Jesus also taught about this rebellion (Matthew 24:15-25)

Paul also warned about this rebellion (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

John wrote extensively about this rebellion (Revelation)

- > The arrival and eternal reign of Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:9-14; Matthew 24:29-31)

B) A specific prophecy called, "Daniel's 70 Weeks" (Daniel 9:24-27)

- > Being specific with prophecies separates the guessers from God

In Daniel 9:24-27 we find one of those specific prophecies

3. Significant Lessons to Learn from Daniel

A) The Importance of Seeking to Understand God's Prophetic Word

- > Nebuchadnezzar's experience (Daniel 4)
- > Daniel's experience (Daniel 9:1-2)

B) God is God and He will glorify Himself through His people and through history

- > Through the exile and return of Israel into their land
- > Through the fulfillment of His promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David