

DANIEL BAND

ABOUT DANIEL (God is my Judge)

The name of four men in the Bible, namely

- a) A son of David and Abigail (I Chr. 3:1). He is also called Chileab (2 Sam.3:3)
- b) A priest of the family of Ithamar who returned with Ezra from the captivity (Ezra 8:2). Daniel sealed the covenant in the days of Nehemiah (Neh.10:6)
- c) A wise (Ezek. 28:3) and righteous man (perhaps non-Israelite), mentioned together with Noah and Job (Ezek. 14:14, 20), to be identified with an ancient Canaanite worthy named Daniel or equated with No. 4.
- d) A prophet during the period of the Captivity of God's Covenant people in Babylon and Persia (Dan. 1:6-12:9; Matt. 24:15). Daniel also wrote the book in the Old Testament that bears his name.

DANIEL THE PROPHET

Prophet Daniel who wrote the Old Testament Book that bears his name, was a teenager when he was taken from Jerusalem into Captivity by the Babylonians in 605 B.C. He was in his 80s when he received the vision of the prophecy of the 70 weeks (Daniel 9). In more than 60 years of his commitment to God, little is known about Daniel's personal life. His family history is not mentioned, but he was probably from an upper-class in Jerusalem. It seems unlikely that Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, would have selected a trainer for his court from the lower classes. Neither do we know whether Daniel married or had a family. As a servant in Nebuchadnezzar's court, he may have been castrated and made into an EUNUCH, as was common in those days. But the text does not specify that this happened. It does indicate that Daniel was a person of extraordinary abilities.

Daniel is always thought of as a prophet because of the prophetic dimension of his book. But he also served as advisor in the courts of foreign Kings. Daniel remained in governmental service through the reigns of the Kings of Babylon and into the reign of Cyrus of Persia, after the Persians became the dominant world power (Dan. 1:21; 10:1).

Daniel was also a person of deep piety. His book is characterized not only by prophecies of the distant future but also by a sense of wonder at the presence of God. From his youth, Daniel was determined to live by God's law in a distant land (see Daniel 1). In moments of crises, Daniel turned first to God in prayer before turning to the affairs of State (Daniel 2:14-23). His enemies even used his reverence for God and regularity at prayers to conspire and commit acts of wickedness against him. He has a clear vision of God's awesomeness and ability.