DANIEL – Part 1 TEACHER'S NOTES (Historical)



Text: Daniel 1 - 6

Chapter 1

It is interesting to see that we remember Daniel by his Hebrew name, while we remember his three friends by their Babylonian names.

Chapter 2

It is not clear whether the king could or could not remember his own dream. It appears that if he were to have confidence in the interpretation of the dream by the "wise men" they should be able to tell him what his dream was in the first place (that's logical).

	Substance	Kingdom
Head	Gold	Babylon
Chest	Silver	Medo-Persian
Belly	Brass	Greeks
Legs	Iron	Romans

In later chapters the same four kingdom are views against under the symbolism of different beasts.

Chapter 3

The furnace was heated 7 times hotter than usual (v. 19). This seems to be the furnace used to smelt the metal used for the construction of the idol in the first place.

It is interesting to note that the men who cast the three into the furnace were smitten by the heat (vs. 22).

Chapter 5

In chapter 1:2 we see that Nebuchadnezzar brought the items from the Temple to Babylon and placed them in the treasury house of his God. In ch. 5:2-3 Belshazzar brought these vessels out and they were used in his feast. Later when the exiles returned to rebuild the temple under the order of Cyrus of the Medo-Persians (Ezra 1:7-11) all these vessels and items that belonged to the Temple are returned to Jerusalem.

Chapter 6.

This is not the story of a young boy in the den of lions, (as is often pictured in Sunday school literature) but Daniel was an old man, probably in his late 80's or even about 90.

Lessons:

If you let the students suggest some lessons we can benefit from this section of Daniel you will probably receive a variety of good lessons. Some of them might be:

- Ch. 1 Take courage to stand up for God and his commands for our lives. Don't compromise with God's Word. Be faithful and loyal.
- Ch. 2 The God of heaven knows the future and has all events in his hand. God's kingdom will fill the earth. It will not be shaken, or moved (destroyed) etc.
- **Ch. 3** The Lord is able to deliver us from the "furnace," but even if he doesn't we should be ready to be faithful and loyal to him.

Also the lessons the captives learned (beginning on bottom of page 1) contain good lessons for us.

SUPPLEMENT QUESTIONS:

- 1. Probably from 12 to 17 years old.
- 2. Statesman and a Prophet.
- 3. To be uncompromising and faithful. Be prayerful, etc.
- 4. Ezekiel was a prophet with the exiles. Jeremiah in Jerusalem.
- 5. (See list beginning page 1)
- 6. Set up His kingdom (the church) see Hebrews 11:28.

DANIEL – Part 2 (Prophecy)



Text: Daniel 7-12

TEACHER'S NOTES

Chapter 7. The fourth beast is said to have "devoured" the previous. We have a saying that one becomes what he "eats." The fourth kingdom (Rome) took on some policies and characteristics of the previous great empires of Babylon, Persia, and Greece.

That the Lord's kingdom would be established in the time of the fourth empire is seen in Daniel 7:14-18, 22, 27; 2:44, etc.

Chapter 8. In such visions we read of "horns" appearing on the beasts. The beasts represents nations, and the "horns" represent individuals or groups of leaders, of the nation. This is seen as the same in Revelation also and helps us to understand the meaning of "horns" there.

When Alexander the Great died, Antipater took control over Macedonia and Greece; Lysimachus controlled Thrace and westward; Seleucus ruled Syria and Babylon; and Ptolemy controlled Egypt.

The books of I and II Maccabees is a part of what is called the "apocrypha" books. They are uninspired but provide some helpful historical data about this period between the testaments.

The Seventy "Sevens" - Ch. 9

The word translated in the KJV for "weeks" is really the word for "sevens." It simply means a period of "sevens". It might be weeks, or it might be a cycle of seven years. In this case it seems to be the latter.

Question-1. Daniel was reading Jeremiah. It's interesting to note that Daniel studied his Bible. He realized that the 70 years of desolation for the city of Jerusalem were accomplished. (That it, that the seventy years, were fulfilled and it was now time, for God had decreed the Israelites would return to their homeland.)

Question-2. In chapter 9 Gabriel came to Daniel. He came to give him skill and understanding.

The Time of the End – Ch. 10-12

Ch. 11 may not deal with things all that meaningful to us, but it must have been immensely so to those of that early time.

It will probably be obvious to you that I believe the "end" Daniel is speaking of is the end of the Mosical dispensation and the Jewish nation.

Question-3. God in Old Testament times spoke through the prophets, a burning bush, dreams and visions, handwriting on a wall, and once even through a donkey.

But today He speaks to us through Christ. Christ speaks to us through His apostles (Luke 10:16); and his apostles speak to us through their writings (Ephesians 3:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:16).

SUPPLEMENT QUESTIONS:

- 1. Chps. 1-6 Historical, and Chps. 7-12 Prophetical
- 2. In the book of Revelation, chapter 13.
- 3. It was partitioned among his four generals.
- 4. The appearance of the Messiah. He was cut off. He caused the sacrifice to cease, etc. (Jesus' death brought an end to God accepting animal sacrifices for atonement.)
- 5. Chapter 9 Gabriel; Chapter 10 Michael
- 6. The time of the end. (Of the Jewish O.T. dispensation)
- 7. To understand dreams and visions (2:19, 23, 27-30).
- 8. ... in the time of the fourth empire (Roman).
- 9. Over all dominion, or all nations. (cf. Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16)

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