

“Bachelor Degree from Babylon University”

The Book of Daniel is a book about God. The key verse is Daniel 2: 28 “There is a God in heaven.” This is a book about God divided into two main sections:

I. What we learn about God through the life of the Prophet.

The book spans at least 70 years of Daniel’s life of 85 years or more. For 68 of those years he was a public servant - a government official. But for all of those years, he was a prophet. He doesn’t write like a prophet and the Hebrew Bible does not have the book of Daniel listed with the prophets, but the writings. But Jesus called him a prophet in Matthew 24:15.

Daniel was inspired by the reading of the message of Jeremiah and was a contemporary to Ezekiel and Habakkuk.

He will be a consistent role model of how to not only survive but thrive in a ungodly culture while remaining Godly.

II. What we learn about God through the teachings of Prophecy.

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CrossRoads Baptist Church
September 13, 2009 10:15 a.m.

Daniel 1:1-7
Daniel Series #1

We begin the second greatest book and most read for the issue of prophecy, second only to Revelation. But we will not just look at prophecy to stir up curiosity or to sell books or make charts, but in order to help us think clearly about how to live in a changing world and to see with perfect accuracy our Omniscient God who is the Sovereign Lord of time - the past, present and the future.

I call this a University study because Daniel is about 16 years old when the opening chapter begins and he is taken to learn how to live in a new culture.

I. Place of Study - isolation - 1:2 change their influences

The scene for the book of Daniel occurs in Babylon. The Babylonian Empire was the world power.

900 miles from Daniel's homeland located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in the capital of the kingdom. This would be about 50 miles from the modern day city of Baghdad in modern day Iraq.

They were the first of three waves of Jews taken by Nebuchadnezzar in the summer of 605 B.C. when the king defeated the Egyptians at Carchemish. According the book of the Kings, in 587-586 he finally subdued Judah and sacked Jerusalem, carrying a large section of the population back with him to Babylon.

Shinar is the name in verse 2 that describes Babylon. It is a place hostile to God and faith in God.

Genesis 10:10

Genesis 11:2 - All humanistic thought can be traced back to the Tower of Babel.

II. Program of Study - indoctrination - 1:3-4

When you take a people by force, you will never keep them by force. The spirit and will and mind of a people is much stronger than any army or power. So to change a nation, you begin by changing the young people.

You may change their way of living.

This was a three-year program of study for these men to learn the Chaldean culture. The line of study was four-fold:

1. In the language 1:4

In order to survive in a new culture, you must learn the language. The first thing Nebuchadnezzar did was to change these men from speaking Hebrew to Aramaic.

The part of the book of Daniel (2:4 to 7:28) written in Aramaic was written for the Gentiles to read and know.

The part written in Hebrew was for the Jews only.

2. In the literature 1:4

Literature is the window through which most cultures present themselves. He would fill these young men with

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Babylonian philosophy, science, astrology, and religion.

He wanted them to forget the Bible of their parents and root out their previous belief system and all of its traditional values.

3. In the lifestyle 1:5

He appointed daily provisions of his own delicacies and provided them with all their living expenses. He was seeking to change these Jewish boys' strict adherence to a kosher diet.

Isaiah 47 is a chapter directed toward the Babylonians. In verse 1, "virgin daughter of Babylon."

In verse 8, Babylon calls itself "I am, and there is none besides me." and repeats it in verse 10.

This is a total defilement of I AM as the one and only one who I AM THAT I AM.

Complete self-absorption. This place was very religious - the only thing was that the object of their worship was self.

4. In their loyalty 1:7

He tried to change their loyalty by changing their names. All four of these young men's names spoke who they were and from whence they'd come.

Daniel - "God is my Judge" - Belteshazzar - "Bel protect his life" - riches

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Hananiah - "God has shown grace" - Shadrach -
"Command of Aku" - Aku was the moon god - power

Misael - "Who is Like God?" - Meshach - "Who is what
Aku Is?"

Azariah - "God is my help." - Abednego - "Servant of
Nebo" - burning fire

all the new names referred to various Babylonian gods.

He wanted them to think of themselves in the new culture.

Do you have a plan for your children? Plans to raise in
them in the admonition of the Lord? If you don't, I can
assure you the devil does.

On Fidel Castro's 75th birthday party in 2001, he was seen
presenting a Cuban flag to the head of the Cuban
Communist Youth Organization, which symbolized
Castro's commitment to instilling a communist worldview
in the mind of every Cuban child. "Castro knows that in
order to keep his regime alive, he must pass the torch of
communism to the next generation. He knows that if he
fails to teach Cuba's children the communist worldview, his
revolution will eventually die out," said Chuck Colson.

In 1933 the Humanist Manifesto set out its plain objectives
and no one paid much attention. In 1973 the Humanist
Manifesto II set out its goals to "bring young people to
deny the deity of God and the biblical account of creation.
It set out to re-educate young people to the fact that moral

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values should be self-determined and situational.” That is, there should be no absolute truth. They set out to remove distinctions between the roles of males and females. They set out to advocate a sexual freedom between consenting individuals regardless of their age or preferences. They set out to advocate the right to abortion and euthanasia. And they also argued for the equal distribution of American wealth to reduce poverty. They were intent on controlling the environment and creating a one-world government.

We are the Babylon of the modern world in many ways. Gloria Steinem, in a *Saturday Review* article in March, 1973 stated that by the year 2000 “we will, I hope, raise our children to believe in human potential and not in God.”

III. Provisions of Study - intimidation 1:5, 8-10

College in a world-class institution is not cheap. Last year, the most expensive in terms of tuition and fees only was Washington, D.C.’s George Washington University, with a sticker price of \$40,437 for the 2008-09 school year. And that does not include housing and meals.

Want to go overseas? The American University of Paris, located near the Eiffel Tower, runs close to \$33,000 per year in tuition and fees. Need books and a place to live? Budget in another \$13,000.

With cost like that, Daniel and his friends get a “free” ride if they will just go along.

If you are going to get along, then you must go along. It won’t hurt you, but it may hurt me.

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IV. Prodigies of Study - identity change 1:4, 6-7

These young men had no physical defects. They were handsome, had high ACT scores, good social graces.

This was a culture that valued smart, young and beautiful.

Charles Spurgeon preached and said it this way:

“Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone,
Dare to have a purpose firm,
Dare to make it known.”