

Daniel

"Ready For Daniel"

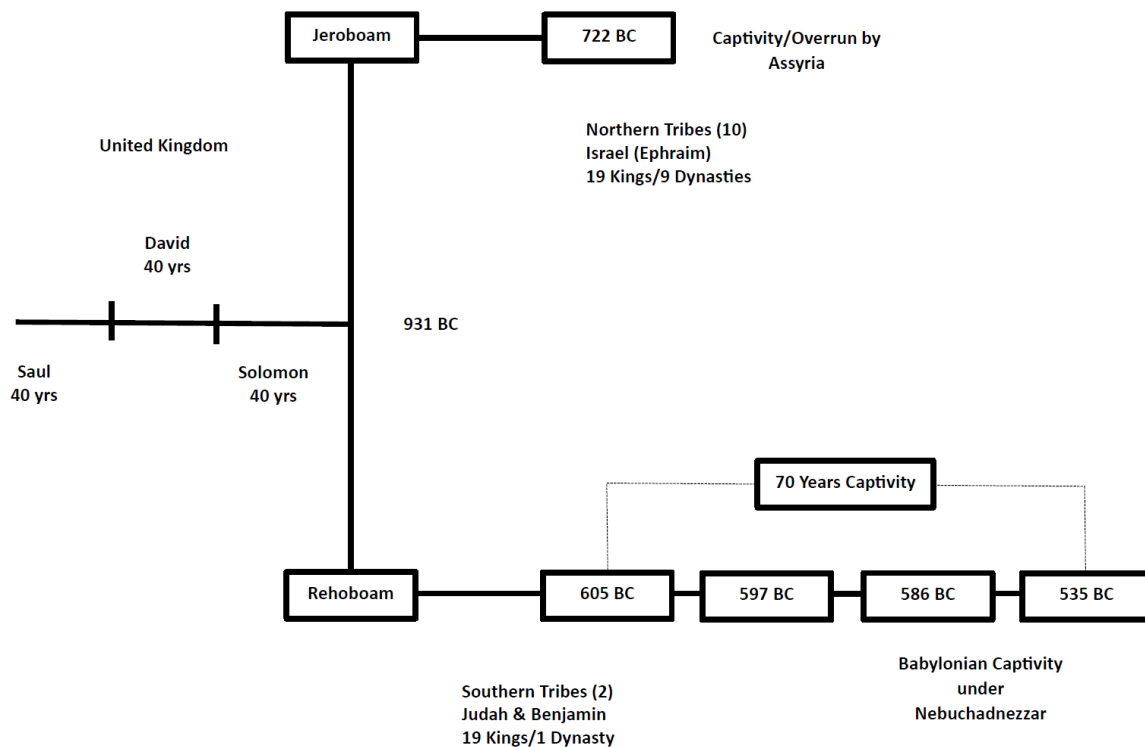
The Basics:

Testament:	Old
Section:	Prophets (Major)
Chapters:	12
Content:	
Ch 1-6:	Historical
Ch 7-12:	Prophetical
Language:	
Ch 1-2:4a:	Hebrew
Ch 2:4b-7:	Aramaic
Ch 8-12:	Hebrew
Viewpoint:	
Ch 1-6:	3 rd Person
Ch 7-12:	1 st Person
Revelation:	
Ch 1-6:	Direct
Ch 7-12:	Indirect (via Angels)
Author:	Daniel

Who Was Daniel:

Whenever one answers this question one wants to start with the ultimate authority. In Matthew 24:15, Jesus, referring to events recorded in the Book of Daniel, called Daniel a Prophet. The Prophet Ezekiel is a contemporary of Daniel and Jeremiah. The Book of Ezekiel is recognized by biblical scholars as a 6th century BC work and Ezekiel's book refers to Daniel on three occasions (14:14, 14:20 and 28:3). The whole book claims to come from the same Daniel that was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC (1:1) and who lived at least until the 3rd year of King Cyrus in 536 BC (1:21). Daniel refers to himself as the writer of the Book in the openings of chapters 7-12.

The Setting:



Kings At the Time of the Babylonian Captivity:

Josiah was the King from 640-609 BC and sought to lead the people back to God, however, the last four Kings of Judah were evil men, even though three were Josiah's sons and one (Jehoiachin) was his grandson. Jehoahaz, or Shallum, succeeded Josiah and reigned for three months. Pharaoh Necho had him deported to Egypt where he died. Jehoiakim, or Eliakim, ruled in Jerusalem for 11 years and died there. He was the King in 605 BC when Daniel was taken in the 1st deportation under Nebuchadnezzar. Jehoiakim was succeeded by his son Jehoiachin, also called, Coniah or Jeconiah. He also ruled for only three months. Nebuchadnezzar took him to Babylon in the 2nd deportation where he eventually died. The last King of Judah was Zedekiah who reigned 11 years and saw Jerusalem destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC. He was blinded and taken to Babylon to die in 586 BC in the 3rd deportation.

A Chronological Order for the Book of Daniel:

Chap.	Event	Year	Daniel's Age
1	Daniel's Captivity	605	15
2	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	603	17
3	Fiery Furnace	-	-
4	Image of Nebuchadnezzar	-	-
7	Vision of the Four Beasts	553	67
8	Vision of the Ram and the He-Goat	550	69
5	Belshazzar's Feast - Conquest of Babylon	539	81
9	Vision of the Seventy Weeks	539	81
6	Daniel in the Lion's Den	537	83
10-12	Daniel's prayer and visions	536	84

The Placement of the Book of Daniel in the Canon:

The Bible places the Book of Daniel among the major prophets of the Old Testament. However, the present-day Jewish Bible, which has three sections of books, the Law, Prophets, and the Writings; places the Book of Daniel among the Writings. A question arises as to why the difference. Critics argue that the placement in the Jewish Old Testament results because the Jews saw Daniel as less inspired than the other books, that it was written later than originally thought in about 200 B.C. along with other Apocryphal books, and that Daniel himself was not a prophet, but a seer. However, the evidence clearly shows that the Book of Daniel was, and is, believed to be inspired, was written around 530 B.C. in Daniel's time, and that Daniel himself was called a prophet by Jesus. For this reason, it is very appropriate that the Book of Daniel be placed alongside the Major Prophets in the Bible.

Outline:

1. Daniel the Prisoner (1)
2. Daniel the Interpreter (2-6)
 - a. Interpreting the Image Dream
 - b. The Golden Image
 - c. Interpreting the Tree Dream
 - d. Interpreting the Handwriting on the Wall
 - e. Daniel in the Lion's Den
3. Daniel the Seer (7-12)
 - a. The Vision of the Four Beasts
 - b. The Vision of the Ram and the He-Goat
 - c. The Seventy Weeks Appointed to Israel
 - d. The Vision of Israel's Future and the End

Next Week: "God Rules and Overrules (Daniel 1:1-21)"