

# **A Survey of Daniel**

Gregory A. Smith

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## **Background Information**

The book as such

- One of the “major prophets”

- The shortest of the major prophets

- Provides the most comprehensive look at the panorama of prophecy

- Correlates heavily with the Olivet Discourse and the book of Revelation

Historical/geographical situation of the author

- Deported from Judah to Babylon in 605 BC

- Promoted to political stature by Nebuchadnezzar

- Remained in dual prophetic/political office for a period of more than 60 years

- Witnessed the transition of world powers from Babylonian Empire to Medo-Persian Empire

## **Structure of the Book**

Chapters 1-6: Primarily narrative, relating events in Daniel’s life, showing his role in the two empires; prophecy that appears in this section is in the form of visions whose interpretation is provided; contains well-known stories of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego

Chapters 7-12: Primarily prophetic, describing Daniel’s visions concerning the future; contains less self-interpretation

## **Prophetic Highlights**

The Metallic Image (chp 2; cf. chp 7)

- Gold head: Babylonia

- Silver chest and arms: Medo-Persia

- Bronze belly and thighs: Greece

- Iron legs: Rome

- Feet of iron and clay: Successor to Rome

The Seventy Weeks (chp 9)

- Came in context of prayer concerning the end of the seventy-year exile (cf. Jer 25.11)

- God revealed that he would again work in function of seventy units of time, this time “weeks” (i.e., sevens--seven-year periods)

- Upon conclusion of the seventy weeks, everlasting righteousness would be ushered in with the coming of Messiah’s kingdom

- Period would begin with the command to rebuild Jerusalem (ca. 445 BC)

- Predicts death of the Messiah and seven years of tribulation

## **Life Lessons**

It is possible to remain pure in the face of opposition (1.8; cf. chps 3, 6).

God is sovereign in the affairs of men (2.20-21; 4.34-35).

God is the source of all truth (2.27-28, 47).

God will one day install his kingdom on earth (2.44).