

## SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: DANIEL

### The Man Daniel

*The name 'Daniel' means 'God is my judge'. During his teenage years (13 or 14 years old), Nebuchadnezzar took him into exile in Babylon. That was in 605BC. As a son of the royal/noble family, a young man without blemish but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, he was inducted into the Babylonian civil service. He rose to (almost) the top of the civil service, serving during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, Darius (Mede) and Cyrus (Persian)! We know that he was still active in service, and still ministering as a prophet in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Cyrus' reign (536BC) from Daniel 10:1, meaning he was about 82 or 83 years old then!!*

(Read Daniel 1:1-6; 2:1; 5:1,30; 6:1,28; 7:1; 8:1; 9:1; 10:1 and 11:1 to help you work out the storyline above)

### The Book Daniel

Theme: YAHWEH is Lord over all!

Chapter 1-6 ~ YAHWEH is Lord over history

- Chapter 1: The Event:  
The Conclusion? 1:15, 18-21!
- Chapter 2: The Event:  
The Conclusion? 2:46-47!
- Chapter 3: The Event:  
The Conclusion? 3:29!
- Chapter 4: The Event:  
The Conclusion? 4:34-35!

- Chapter 5: The Event:  
The Conclusion? 5:22-23!
- Chapter 6: The Event:  
The Conclusion? 6:25-27!

### Chapter 7-12 ~ YAHWEH is Lord of the future

- Chapter 7: The Survey of the Future (4 beasts)  
Conclusion? 7:13-14, 26-27!
- Chapter 8: The Ram and the Goat  
Conclusion? 8:25!
- Chapter 9: The Prayer and Prophecy of Daniel  
Conclusion? 9:26-27!
- Chapter 10-12: The Inter-testamental Period  
Conclusion? 12:1-3!

Daniel 7-12 is apocalyptic literature. It is a distinct type of Jewish literature where the language is mysterious, its dominant feature is symbolism and its concern is 'future history'. Apocalyptic literature is written to encourage the faithful in times of persecution. Its main theme is the growth of evil, God will care for His people, evil will not prevail finally but instead God's kingdom will go on. Indeed it is the only thing that will go on!

Therefore, stand firm for God. Know that He rules the world, even now!