Daniel

Who, When, Where

Written by Yeshua (Joshua). Yeshua, (the one we also call Joshua), was a disciple/apprentice to Moses and led the Israelites into the promised land after Moses died.
Written during the time of the Exile, which started in 587BC and lasted for 70 years. Daniel was one of the exiles in Babylon (in modern Iraq), and although he spent his life there his visions were much wider reaching than just his own area, or indeed than just his lifetime.

Summary

Daniel, Ezekiel and Jeremiah were all prophets around the same time. Daniel came a little later than the other two, and they probably never met. Jeremiah was still back in Israel, and Ezekiel was also part of the Exile in Persia, but Daniel lived in the king's palace.
Daniel refers to Jeremiah's prophecies in chapter 9 where he searched them to find out how long the Exile might last.
Some of the prophecies in Daniel have far reaching consequences. Some that may affect even you. Keep an eye out for them as you read.
Daniel's prophecies are incredibly precise, even specifying future king's names.
Some of the stories are well known Sunday school stuff… like his 3 friends who were thrown into a fiery furnace but emerged unharmed. (Who was the 4th person in there with them?) And the story of Daniel and the lions.

Some are less well known, but Daniel contains some of the most important prophecies of the Old Testament.

Before You Read

The Babylonians used to bring their captives back and educate them so the next generation would be more Babylonian and less wherever they came from. This was their tactic to stop longer term rebellion.

They also gave them Babylonian names, it was all part of the brainwashing/indoctrination to keep the next generation under control.

Daniel received some amazing visions from Yahweh. Visions about world events and even about our time, the last days.

Key Verses

Daniel 9:24

"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

Seventy sevens are decreed.
When? What does that even mean?

Daniel 12:3

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Those who are wise will shine like stars
Compare that with Philippians 2:15

After You Read

What verses really stood out to you?

How would you summarize this book in a sentence or two? What is it about? What is God trying to say to us?

In what was was Daniel similar to Joseph?
How did they interpret dreams? Can you do that?

How are you challenged by the devotion of people who are willing to be thrown into furnaces, or thrown to lions because of their faith in Yahweh?

What happened 483 years after Artaxerxes issued the decree to rebuild Jerusalem, around 457 BC? How does that fit with Daniel 9 and the vision of 70 7's. Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by the Romans in 70AD. Did that have anything to do with it?

After the Persians invaded Babylon, next came the Greeks under Alexander the Great, who divided his kingdom up to his 4 generals. And finally, the Romans conquered the whole "known world". How does that fit in with Daniel 2? And what does it mean that the feet were mixed with clay? Has that happened already or yet to come?

And how does that all fit with the vision of the beasts of Daniel 7?
Who was the son of man who Daniel saw in that vision?

The vision of the kings who were to come in chapter 11 was very detailed. Did that turn out to be true? Does it fit what we know of history?

Daniel prayed for 21 days. Would you? Where else does Michael, the angel who came to him, appear in the Bible?

Yeshua said that Daniel spoke about the abomination on the temple. Where was that? Who do you think he was talking about?

What else really stood out to you about Daniel?

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