

# Daniel

Divine Sovereignty &  
Human Faithfulness



# Introduction

- Daniel: 'God is my judge' (*elite, youth, wise*)
- Date: 6<sup>th</sup> c. or 2<sup>nd</sup> c. B.C.?
- Setting: Babylonian/Persian royal court
- Theme: *God's Sovereignty, Human Faithfulness*
- Message: *Regardless of ruler, God is sovereign, carrying out His purposes in history, but often through His faithful people!*



# Date of Daniel

- 2<sup>nd</sup> c. B.C.
  - Canon: Writings (TNK)
  - Apocalyptic: 2<sup>nd</sup> c. B.C.  
(cf. Charlesworth, *OTP*)
  - Pseudepigrapha:  
prophecy too accurate  
(cf. *Dan. 11*)
  - Language: Greek,  
Persian, Aramaic,  
and Hebrew



# Date of Daniel

(1) *Torah* (Gen-Deut.)

(2) *Prophets*

- Joshua
- Judges
- Samuel
- Kings
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Ezekiel
- The Twelve

(3) *Writings*

- Psalms
- Job
- Proverbs, Ruth
- Song, Qoheleth
- **Lamentations**
- **Esther**
- *Daniel*
- **Ezra-Nehemiah**
- **Chronicles**



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## ○ Response:

- Genre & date (Ps, Ruth)  
*Josephus Ag. Ap. 1.8, Ant. 11.337*
- Proto-apocalyptic (Isa. 24-27)
- Anti-supernatural (Mic 5, Isa 44),  
theme (sovereignty)
- Greek loanwords: music,  
Persians, Hebrew & Aramaic:  
Nehemiah, Ezra, Elephantine



# Date of Daniel

○ 6<sup>th</sup> c. B.C.

- Internal: autobiography by Daniel (1<sup>st</sup> person), between his exile to Babylon (Dan. 1:1, 605 B.C.) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Cyrus (Dan. 10:1, 536 B.C.)
- External: Old Testament? (Ezek. 14:14, 28:3), apocryphal (*1 Macc* 2:60; *3 Macc* 6:7; *4 Macc* 16:3, 21; 18:13), Qumran (8 fragments, 2<sup>nd</sup> c. B.C.),



# Divine Oracle (7)

- Dream: 'I saw in my vision . . . four great beasts' (1-8)  
*Four beasts symbolize future kings (7:17), identity debated*



# Divine Oracle (7)

## Statue (Dan. 2)

- Head (gold)
- Chest (silver)
- Torso (bronze)
- Legs (iron)
- Feet (iron/clay)

## Beasts (Dan. 7)

- Lion (wings)
- Bear (3 ribs)
- Leopard (4 heads)
- Dreadful
- 10 horns/1 horn

## Interpretation(s)

- Babylon
- Medo-Persia, Media
- Greece, Persia
- Seleucids\*, Rome, Greece  
(*Eschaton, near/far?*)

## \*Little horn in Daniel 7-8?

- contemporary to 10 kings?
- sprouts from 4<sup>th</sup> beast (post-Greece), not goat
- God's eternal kingdom with Maccabees?



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*Four beasts symbolize future kings (7:17), identity debated*
- Dwarf: ‘I looked because of the great words’ (9-12)  
*Lofty vision of God distracted by lofty words of little horn*
- Deity? ‘There came one like a son of man...’ (13-14)  
*Deity (cloud-rider, eternal rule, serve)-human (appear, represent)*



“The mysterious heavenly figure of Daniel 7:13-14 is the closest Hebrew Scripture came to a revelation of the heavenly origin and divine nature of the eschatological Messiah. Daniel’s image portrayed an individual who stands between God, the angelic host, and mankind. He is of heavenly origin, yet he looks human. He is distinct from the Most High, yet receives the honor normally reserved for God. He is distinct from humanity in authority, yet is associated with mankind and functions as a patron of the faithful of Israel.”

Bock, Bateman & Johnston, *Jesus the Messiah*, 188



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*Deity (cloud-rider, eternal rule, serve)-human (appear, represent)*
- Dominion: ‘fourth king will be different’ (15-28)  
*4<sup>th</sup> beast allowed to rule for a time, kingdom given to saints (3x)*



# Vision: Ram & Goat (8)

## ○ Vision (1-14)

- Ram with two horns, defeating opposition
- Goat with large horn defeats ram, horn broken, replaced by four horns, rise of little horn, defiles God's sanctuary

## ○ Interpretation (15-27)

- Medes & Persians (20) (later, more dominant)
- Greece, Alexander (21) defeats Persians, dies at peak of power, empire split into four regions; Antiochus Epiphanes (*Epimanes*) makes war on God's people, supernaturally destroyed



# Vision: Seventy Weeks (9)

- Prayer: ‘seeking by prayer, pleas for mercy’ (1-19)  
*Aged (80+), analyzing Jeremiah (25:11, 29:10), admits sin-ruin, (covenant curses, you/us), asks to restore (mercy, renown)*
- Prophecy: ‘Seventy weeks are decreed’ (20-27)
  - *Beginning*: decree/word about rebuilding Zion (25)
  - *Messiah*: coming & cutting off of an anointed one (26)
  - *Zion*: city and sanctuary destroyed (26-27)
  - *End*: destroyer will be destroyed (27)



# Daniel's Final Vision (10-12)

- Fear: 'I saw a vision, no strength was left' (10-11:1)  
*Vision-war, mourning, heavenly visitor (detained), great fear*
- Future: 'Now, I will show you the truth' (11:2-45)
  - (1) Persia-4 kings, Greece-Alexander & 4 heirs (2-4)
  - (2) Seleucids & Ptolemies (5-20)
  - (3) Antiochus IV (21-45)
    - Takes throne through deceit (21-24)
    - Defeats Egypt, robs temple (25-28)
    - Defeated by Egypt, desecrates temple, resistance (29-35)
    - Recapitulation or near/far *eschaton*? (36-45)
- Far: 'Those who sleep in the dust shall awake' (12)  
*Michael delivers, seal (2x), 3.5 yrs: abomination to deliverance*



# Summary

With historical narratives from Daniel's life (ch. 1-6), the first part of the book combines the sovereignty of God over human rulers with His penchant to use faithful people to carry out His purposes. In the book's latter half (ch. 7-12), Daniel's apocalyptic visions show God's sovereign control of the future, foretelling the rise & fall of political powers and offering hope of Zion's restoration after a period of great tribulation.

