



A Course  
*In*  
**DANIEL, STUDIES  
IN**

Supplement  
**PART TWO**

Prepared by the  
Committee on Religious Education  
of the  
**American Bible College**

Pineland, Florida 33945

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

#

The compiler of this course study, Dr. Phil Stringer, has been a loyal colleague of the American Bible College and we consider it a great privilege to have Dr. Stringer's permission to use his book, DANIEL. This work is produced from a historical, fundamental Baptist perspective with quotes from other recognized scholars. His style of interpretation relates the Book of Daniel with other relevant scriptural passages and in particular, the Book of Revelation. This study is progressive by following REVELATION'S divisions with pertinent sections elaborating on specific topics.

It is our desire that this study by Dr. Stringer will be as enlightening and spiritually rewarding to you as it has been to others.

The Book of Daniel is probably the most researched of all Old Testament books. For the student's enlightenment, an additional syllabus compilation of various fundamental Bible scholars' opinions is included as a collateral reading for consideration.

Dr. Marvin W. Royse

# Contents

<i>Acknowledgement</i> .....	2
<i>Contents</i> .....	3
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	4
<b>THE SPIRIT OF BABYLON; NIMROD, BABEL, BABYLON &amp; MYSTERY BABYLON</b> .....	5
<b>NEBUCHADNEZZAR AND NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE</b> .....	6
<b>DANIEL 1 – GODLINESS IN A PAGAN LAND</b> .....	8
<b>DANIEL 2:1-30 – NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S DECREE OF DEATH</b> .....	10
<b>DANIEL 2:24-49 – THE DREAM OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR</b> .....	11
<b>DANIEL 3 – THE FIERY FURNACE</b> .....	13
<b>DANIEL 4 – THE HIGH GOD</b> .....	16
<b>DANIEL 5 – BELSHAZZAR’S LAST NIGHT</b> .....	17
<b>WHO WAS DARIUS THE MEDE?</b> .....	20
<b>DANIEL 6 – THE LION’S DEN</b> .....	21
<b>CYRUS THE GREAT</b> .....	23
<b>DANIEL 7 – THE VISION OF THE FOUR BEASTS</b> .....	26
<b>DANIEL 8 – THE RAM AND THE HE-GOAT</b> .....	27
<b>DANIEL 9:1-19 – DANIEL’S PRAYER OF REPENTANCE</b> .....	30
<b>DANIEL’S SEVENTY WEEKS – THE KEY TO PROPHETIC REVELATION</b> .....	32
<b>DANIEL 10 – DANIEL’S HEAVENLY VISITORS</b> .....	34
<b>DANIEL 11:1-35 – THE HISTORY OF THE KINGS OF THE NORTH AND THE KINGS OF THE SOUTH</b> .....	35
<b>DANIEL 11:36-45 – THE WILLFUL KING</b> .....	37
<b>ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANESE</b> .....	39
<b>THE ANTICHRIST</b> .....	40
<b>DANIEL 12 – DANIEL’S FINAL PROPHECIES</b> .....	43
<b>THE CITY OF BABYLON</b> .....	46

# INTRODUCTION

"I wish to stress in my preface this fact that none of the prophets have so clearly spoken concerning Christ as this prophet, Daniel. For not only did he assert that he would come, a prediction common to the other prophets as well, but he also set forth the very time at which he would come. Moreover, he went through the various kings in order, stated the actual number of years involved, and announced beforehand the clearest signs of events to come." – Jerome, Preface to Latin translation of Daniel, Fourth Century A.D.

## I. AUTHOR

- A. Declared the author to be Daniel himself – Matt. 24:15.
- B. Daniel often speaks in the first person – 7:1, 28; 8:1; 9:2; 10:2; 12:5.
- C. Ezekiel, his contemporary, refers to him as a great spiritual leader, Eze. 14:14, 20; 28:3.
- D. Daniel's early life is contemporary with Jeremiah and Ezekiel. His later life is contemporary with Ezra.

## II. DATE OF WRITING

- A. Daniel was taken as a captive in 605 B.C. (II Kings 24:11-16). He interpreted the king's dream in 603 B.C. He has the vision of the four beasts in 553 B.C. He saw the vision of the ram and the he-goat in 551 B.C. He interpreted the handwriting on the wall in 539 B.C. His last prophecy came in 536 B.C.
- B. The events of Daniel took place during the Neo-Babylonian Empire ruled by Nebuchadnezzar and the beginning of the Persian Empire founded by Cyrus.

## III. LANGUAGE

- A. The central portion of Daniel (2:1-7:28) is written in Syriac (also known as Aramaic or Chaldee). The rest of the book is in Hebrew.
- B. The use of Syriac is because these passages concern the gentile world and not primarily Israel, see also Ezra 4:8-6:18; 7:12-26; and Jer. 10:11.
- C. Syriac was the language of the Neo-Babylonian Empire.

## IV. THE PERSON OF DANIEL

- A. Daniel was either of royal or noble birth, Dan. 1:3, 6.
- B. He was of high intelligence and good physical appearance, Dan. 1:4.
- C. Three times he is called "greatly beloved". – 9:23; 10:11, 19.

## V. THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

"In the dark hour of Israel's captivity, with the tragic destruction of Jerusalem and its temple, there was need for a new testimony to the might and providential power of God. – Daniel: The Key to Prophetic Revelation, p.12-13.

- A. Daniel reveals God's continuing work among His people Israel, even during their time of judgment.
- B. Daniel provides the key to the interpretation of prophetic scriptures throughout the Bible.
- C. G. Campbell Morgan wrote that the theme of Daniel was "the persistent government of God in the government of the world."

## VI. FIVE RULES FOR STUDYING DANIEL

- A. Daniel was an actual individual who lived during the Neo-Babylonian Empire. Babylon was the world's only super power at that time.
- B. He was a prophet who predicted things to come (Matt. 24:15). Prophecy is history written in advance.
- C. Daniel and his companions represented Israel during the captivity.
- D. Daniel's prophecies have one primary interpretation.
- E. There are many applications to be made from the lessons of Daniel's life.

## **VII. APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE**

The book of Daniel is the first recorded example of apocalyptic literature in the world.

### **THE SPIRIT OF BABYLON: NIMROD, BABEL, BABYLON & MYSTERY BABYLON**

"He persuaded them not to ascribe it to God, as if it was through His means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness. He gradually changed that government into tyranny seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a contorted dependence upon his power." – Josephus on Nimrod

#### **I. THE NAME BABYLON**

The name Babylon is used to designate a city in Mesopotamia, an empire that extends from that city, a philosophy of government in rebellion against God and a religion that defies the Creator God. Understanding Babylon is important background for understanding the book of Daniel.

#### **II. AFTER THE FLOOD**

After the flood, several city-states in Mesopotamia became the center of civilization. These states were free and independent.

Noah's great-grandson, Nimrod became a dominant personality in this area, (Gen. 10:8-10). His name in Hebrew means "revolt". The Bible describes him as "a mighty hunter before the Lord." The word mighty implies strength and tyranny. The term "hunter before the Lord" implies "hunting for the souls of men."

#### **III. NIMROD'S REVOLT**

According to the Jewish historian Josephus, Nimrod was the leading force behind the tower of Babel, (Gen.11:1-9). Nimrod was clearly leading a revolt against God! According to Josephus, the Tower of Babel was designed to be water-proof (remembering the Flood). Man would literally invade heaven and take God's throne.

God supernaturally frustrated this rebellion by giving men different languages. This divided them into different tribes and ended the work on the tower.

According to several ancient historians, Nimrod built Babylon out of the ruins of the Tower of Babel. Babel is Hebrew for Babylon.

#### **IV. NIMROD'S EMPIRE**

Nimrod continued his rebellion against the Creator God. He conquered several cities and founded several cities. He was apparently known by a different name in each city – each city had a different language. He was Etana in Kish, Ninus in Nineveh, etc.

Nimrod was trying to unite what God had divided. He used dependence upon and obedience to human government to replace dependence upon and obedience to the Creator God.

In his ancient history, *History Romani Scriptorium* Justin states:

"Ninus strengthened the greatness of his acquired dominion by continued possession. Having subdued, therefore, his neighbors, when, by an accession of forces, being still further strengthened, he went forth against other tribes, and every new victory paved the way for another, he subdued all the peoples of the east."

## **V. MYSTERY BABYLON**

Nimrod also became associated with a religious alternative to the worship of the Creator God.

Following the death of Nimrod, his heathen form of worship was continued by his wife, Queen Semiramis. She claimed that her husband had become the Sun god, and was to be worshipped. Some time after this, Queen Semiramis conceived through adultery and gave birth to an illegitimate son whom she named Tammuz, who she declared was actually Nimrod reborn, and that he had been supernaturally conceived. However, even though Semiramis claimed to have given birth to a saviour, it was she that was worshipped, not the son. She was worshipped as the mother of the gods.

Many different ideas from the Babylonian religion have come down through the generations. Probably the key doctrine is that of the mother-son relationship, As the Babylonian people were scattered throughout the world, they took with them the idea that Semiramis had miraculously conceived and given birth to Nimrod reincarnated, Thus, all through the world, men began to worship a divine mother and god-child, long before the birth of Christ, The woman appears in different names, but she is always the same person: Isis in Egypt, Indrani in India, Cybelle in Asia, Fortuna (the boy) in Rome, Ceres in Greece, Shing Moo in China, Hertha in Germany and Sisa in Scandanavia. But the woman was really Semiramis, the queen of Babylon, Even Israel, when it fell into apostasy, worshipped Ashteroth, who was known to the Jews as the "queen of Heaven" as told in Jeremiah 44:17-19.

In his deified form, Nimrod the Sun god is known as Baal. Semiramis, as the female divinity, would be called Baalti. This word translated into English means "My Lady". In Latin it would be translated "Mea Domina", This name becomes the name "Madonna" which is the name by which Mary is often referred. The same reasoning can be applied to the name of "Mediatrix", which Mary is also called. Mary received that title from "Mylitta" (mediatrix) which was one of the names of the Mother Goddess of Babylon. "The Queen of Heaven" is another name for Mary that has been adopted from the pagan Babylonian religions.

Several ancient historians refer to this development of the Babylonian Mystery Religion: Diodorus Siculus (Greek), Josephus (Jewish), Heridatus (Greek), Mohammed refers to this in the Koran, The Jewish Taigum of Jonathan calls Nimrod the greatest "rebel before the Lord that ever was."

From a Christian perspective the history of the Babylonian religion is recorded by Alexander Hislop in *The Two Babylons*, 1953. It is recorded from a secular prospective by Sir James George Frazer in *The Golden Bough*, 1950,

The Babylonian Mystery Religion is based upon salvation by works and independence from the Creator God. It sets the stage for human tyranny in religion and government. Human leaders accept worship as God. All fake religion, including fake forms of Christianity, descend from this false religion, Revelation 17:4-18.

## **NEBUCHADNEZZAR AND NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE**

"Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength and glory." Daniel 2:37

### **I. BACKGROUND**

Under Hammurabi, Babylon had been the most dominant kingdom of Mesopotamia. Nineveh destroyed the power of Babylon and for over 700 years, Assyria was the dominant empire. The city of Babylon was greatly reduced and was often temporarily conquered by tribal groups.

The Assyrian emperor Ashurbanipal took possession of the city of Babylon and declared himself the heir of the Babylonian Empire.

## **II. NABOLASSAR**

Around 625 B.C. a local leader named Nabolassar overthrew the Assyrian leaders in the area of Babylon. He formed an alliance with the Medes and the Scythians and sent an army against Assyria.

The army was placed under the command of his eighteen-year-old son, Nebuchadnezzar. His name means "Nebo protects the crown". He proved to be a brilliant military leader. He would eventually conduct 34 sieges and conquer all 34 cities. He never lost a battle.

## **III. THE DESTRUCTION OF NINEVEH**

A. Nineveh had terrorized the world for centuries. Except for a brief period of peace following the revival under Jonah, Nineveh was famous for its conquest and cruelty.

B. Nineveh was fifteen miles by sixty miles. Every building was destroyed. As Ashurbanipal watched the destruction, he gathered his nobles, wives, children and concubines into the royal palace and had it set on fire. Nebuchadnezzar set the last building in Nineveh on fire himself. This destruction fulfills the prophecies of the book of Nahum.

## **IV. THE FIRST CAMPAIGN AGAINST EGYPT**

A. Egypt, formerly a vassal of Assyria, seized control of many formerly Assyrian territories.

B. Nebuchadnezzar led an army against Egypt and defeated their army at Carechemish. He chased the Egyptians back toward Egypt (Jer. 46:2).

C. Judah had allied itself with Egypt. Nebuchadnezzar stopped to besiege Jerusalem. He captured Jehoiakim, received submission from him and returned him to the throne. He took some of the sacred vessels, and He took a number of youths, especially chosen for their education and appearance for government service in Babylon. This group included Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. This was the third year of Jehoiakim (Daniel 1:1-2).

## **V. NEBUCHADNEZZAR BECOMES KING**

A. Nebuchadnezzar received word that his father had died. With select troops, he raced back to Babylon. His main army followed later with plunder and captives.

B. He was received by adoring crowds in Babylon and recognized as king. This is the fourth year of Jehoiakim. (Jer. 26:1).

C. He devoted himself to rebuilding the city of Babylon. He was determined to make it bigger and more magnificent than Nineveh. He was as talented at building cities as he was destroying them. Hundreds of thousands of slaves worked at building the most fabulous city of the ancient world. Its walls were 60 miles long, 300 feet high and 80 feet thick. (Isa.13:19) He built three palaces, three huge pagan temples and the famed Hanging Gardens for his wife.

Nebuchadnezzar had his name stamped into all of the bricks of the wall. Some remain until this day.

When Nebuchadnezzar had inscriptions erected in his honor, he focused more on engineering plots than his military accomplishments.

## **VI. DANIEL**

Nebuchadnezzar appointed Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon after he interpreted a dream for him. (Daniel 2)

## **VII. THE IMAGE OF GOLD**

Nebuchadnezzar demanded the worship of his image. After Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego survived a fiery furnace, Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the God of Heaven (Daniel 3).

## **VIII. THE SECOND SIEGE OF JERUSALEM**

A. Jehoiakim rebelled against Babylon after three years. Tribes loyal to Nebuchadnezzar (Chaldeans, Syrians, Moabites, Ammorites) began to raid Judah (II Kings 24:1-7).

B. Jehoiakim died and was succeeded by his son, Jehoiachin.

- C. Nebuchadnezzar led his army to besiege Jerusalem. He conquered Jerusalem, took Jehoiachin and 10,000 hostages to Babylon. He took the rest of the vessels of the temple.
- D. Zedekiah, the brother of Jehoiakim, was made king (II Kings 24:8-20).
- E. Ezekiel was carried away captive during this siege.

#### **IX. THE THIRD SIEGE OF JERUSALEM**

- A. Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon.
- B. Nebuchadnezzar returned and besieged Jerusalem again. Jeremiah 27-29 addresses this time as does Ezekiel chapters 4 to 24. It is described in II Kings 24:18-25:21, and Jer. 52.
- C. Nebuchadnezzar, after a two year siege, allowed his army to pillage Jerusalem. Lamentations was written during this terror.

#### **X. CONQUEST OF THE MIDEAST**

During the same campaign that involved the third siege of Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar conquered Tyre (see Ezekiel 26-28), Egypt (see Jer. 43 and 46), Arabia, Syria, and Phoenicia.

#### **XI. THE JUDGMENT OF GOD**

- A. After his return to Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar is warned about his pride (Daniel 4).
- B. Nebuchadnezzar loses his sanity and lives as a wild animal for several years. The historian, Boessus, refers to his "strange malady". This lasted for seven years. (Daniel 4). The king humbled himself and his sanity returned.
- C. The next year Nebuchadnezzar died. This was his 43rd year as king.

#### **XII. EVIL-MERODACH**

Evil-Merodach succeeded Nebuchadnezzar. He released Jeconiah from prison and honored him (see II Kings 25:27-30 and Jer. 52:31-34). He reigned for two years and was murdered by his brother-in-law.

#### **XIII. NERGAL-SHAR-EZAR**

He ruled four years after killing Evil-Merodach. He died of natural causes.

#### **XIV. LEBASHI-MARDUK**

He succeeded to the throne when his father died. He was murdered after a few months.

#### **XV. NABODINUS**

Nabodinus became the next ruler of Babylon. His mother was a daughter of Nebuchadnezzar. He is also referred to in "secular history" as Naucahid. He was rarely in Babylon and lived the life of a solitary mystic. He made his son, Belshazzar, regent (second ruler) and left the administration of the kingdom to him. Belshazzar and Nabodinus are conquered by the Medes and Persians. Belshazzar was executed.

This ends the Neo-Babylonian Kingdom.

## **DANIEL 1- GODLINESS IN A PAGAN LAND**

"An exposition of any book of the Bible, however remarkable for scholarship and learning in textual and historical criticism, fails on the capital point of interpretation if it goes not to the heart of the spiritual matter with awakening, illumining, soul-stirring power that transforms life, moulds character, and uplifts to higher destiny."

On this account Spurgeon's or Moody's method of Bible exposition will save more souls than all the books ever written pro or con on textual or historical criticism. On this account the commentaries of Barnes and Matthew Henry will produce better spiritual results than Meyer's Commentaries, evincing greater scholarship." - B. H. Carroll, Commentary on Daniel, p. 6- 7

### **I. BABYLON BEGINS CONTROL OF JUDAH, 1:1-2**

- A. The name Shinar means "land of 2 rivers" and is synonymous with Babylon.
- B. If Israel had humbled itself before the Lord, this judgment would not have been necessary. (Isa. 39:6-7) Instead of repenting, they trusted in their sacred vessels. Now those vessels were in the temples of other gods.

### **II. THE KINGS TRAINING PROGRAM, 1:3-7**

- A. Daniel and his friends come under the control of Ashpenaz, the master of the eunuchs for a three year training program, According to Josephus, they were made eunuchs,
- B. Outstanding young men were chosen for the king's service. They had: No blemish; Understanding in knowledge; Understanding in science and Poise (ability to stand in the king's palace).
- C. Their culture was changed so that they would be loyal only to Babylon.
- D. They were made eunuchs so that no family loyalty would interfere with their loyalty to the king.
- E. They were fed Babylonian food (another break with their culture), The king himself supervised their diet.
- F. They were given Babylonian names to change their culture and religion,
  - 1. Daniel (*God is my Judge*) was changed to Belteshazzar (*the treasure of Baal*).
  - 2. Hananiah (*God has been gracious to me*) was changed to Shadrach (*inspiration of the sun*).
  - 3. Mishael (*who is like God?*) was changed to Abednego (*servant of the moon god*).
  - 4. Azariah (*Jehovah will help me*) was changed to Meshach (*he who belongs to Schoch*).

### **III. DANIEL'S RESOLUTE PURPOSE (1:8-10. See also Proverbs 4:23)**

- A. The Babylonian diet involved several forms of disobedience to the Levitical law.
  - 1. They ate unclean animals – Lev. 11.
  - 2. They killed the animals improperly – Lev. 17.
  - 3. The food was offered to pagan idols.
  - 4. The meals probably involved alcohol.
- B. Daniel purposed to obey God.
- C. Daniel made a polite appeal to authority.
- D. Daniel had a good testimony with the prince of the eunuchs (Ps. 119:46).
- E. The prince of the eunuchs feared what would happen if these four Hebrew young men lost their health. The king had a reputation for rage resulting in executions.

### **IV. DANIEL'S TEST (1:11-16).**

- A. Daniel avoided unnecessary conflict by suggesting a test that would allow him and his friends to stay true to the law and satisfy the concerns of the prince of the eunuchs. He appealed to the Melzar (a title which means overseer).
- B. Daniel and his friends would be given a ten-day testing period. They chose a vegetarian diet to be sure that they did not eat any meat offered to idols.
- C. They flourished under their diet and they were allowed to keep it.

### **V. DANIEL'S PROGRESS IN BABYLON (1:17-21).**

- A. Daniel and his three friends had finished their "first education" (comparable to our high school) in Judah. They would now receive their "second education" (college) in Babylon.
- B. According to the Greek historian, Strabo, Babylon had a three year training program for captives being prepared for government service.

C. During this training, Nebuchadnezzar himself tested the students. Daniel and his friends were exceedingly impressive during these tests.

**VI. GOD HAD A PURPOSE FOR DANIEL.**

Daniel would be used of God to accomplish two things in Babylon.

A. He would maintain the honor of the creator God in a nation that symbolized rebellion against Him.

B. He would be used of God to protect the Jewish people.

*END OF SAMPLE*