The Book of Daniel Keeping Faith In Babylon

SURVEY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUP

DR. EDWARD O. WILLIAMSON, PASTOR-TEACHER

Introduction

Daniel

- Sixth-century B. C. prophet
- Jewish Babylonian captive
- Noble, possibly of royal lineage

Background

- Book opens after King Nebuchadnezzar's first siege of Judah in 605 B.C.
- Daniel and friends brought to Babylon
- Daniel's ministry ends sometime after the third year of the reign of Cyrus the Great, the Medo-Persian King

- Purpose: To encourage hope during the times of the Gentiles. Hope is promoting by emphasizing God's rule is greater than the kingdom of men.

- Structure: Daniel is a narrative that includes history, prophesy, and apocalyptic visions.

OUTLINE

I. The Godly Remnant In The Times of the Gentiles (1:1-21)

    A. Daniel and Friends in Babylonian Captivity vs. 1-7

    B. Daniel and the King's food vs. 8-16

    C. Daniel and the Lord's reward vs. 17-21

II. God's Sovereignty over the Times of the Gentiles (2:1-7-28)

    A. Daniel and the king's dream - 2:1-49

    B. Daniel's friends and the fiery furnace - 3:1-30

    C. Nebuchadnezzar's pride, madness, and repentance – 4:1-37

    D. Belshazzar's feast and the writing on the wall – 5:1-30

    E. Daniel in the lions' den – 6:1-28

    F. Daniel's vision of the four beast, the ancient of days, and the Son of Man – 7:1-8

Introduction

OUTLINE CONTINUED

III.   God's people in the Times of the Gentiles (8:1-12:13)

    A.   Daniel's vision of the ram and the male goat – 8:1-27

    B.   Daniel's prayer and the vision of the 70 weeks – (9:1-27)

    C.   Daniel and his final visions (10:1-12:13)

Timeline of Events:

650 – 620 B. C.

620-605 B. C.

605-560 B.C.

560-525 B.C.

Daniel 1

The Godly Remnant in the Times of the Gentiles

I.   Captivity in Babylon – vs. 1-7

II.   Faithfulness in Babylon – vs. 8-16

III.   Faithfulness Rewarded – vs. 17-21

Conclusion/Questions/Comments:

- What is the meaning of the "Times of the Gentiles"?

- Why would the king's food and wine defile Daniel and his friends?

- What can we learn and/or apply from this chapter?