

# Temptation of

- Unfaithfulness—because of this the prophets reassure Israel that God is worthy of their highest devotion
- Arrogance—Because of the temptation to think there were superior to others the prophets reassure Israel that God chose them out of grace for the sake of the world
- Oppression—because of the temptation to oppress the vulnerable, the prophets reassure Israel that God stands with the vulnerable
- Mistrust—because of the temptation to mistrust God's promises, the prophets reassure Israel that God will fulfill his plan for creation

- 605 Daniel taken captivity
- 593 Ezekiel becomes a prophet to exiles
- 586 Judah Falls, Jerusalem is destroy, Jeremiah's ministry ends
- 553 Daniel's first vision
- 539 Babylon overthrown Daniel thrown to lions
- 538 First exiles return to Judah
- 536 Daniel's ministry ends

- Chapters 1-6: The focus is on historical events. These are told in the third person.
- Chapters 7-12: The focus is on Daniel's dreams. These chapters are written in the first person
- The visions of 7-12 are intermixed chronologically with the events of 1-6.
- Chapters 2-7 are written in Aramaic
- Question of Dating
- Is Daniel history or prophecy?
- Daniel ministered for 75 years.

- Apocalypse: The kingdoms of this world will be replaced by the Kingdom of God. Pulling back of the curtain to see what is really going on. There is the revealing of events that are to take place as the covenant God unfold the future.
- Call is not to know the times and dates, but to seek God in the midst of His work. The message is perseverance and hope. Only when one loses sight of the purpose and attempts to unseal the book, or to fit apocalyptic visions into historical details does the message become obscure.

# Themes

- God's Sovereign control over world affairs provides comfort and hope—the Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans (etc.) will come and go but God will establish His Kingdom through his redeemed people forever
- Separation to God—call to have an uncompromising spirit that yields to opportunities for God to display His power—resist the temptation to go with the flow
- God is in control and He has good work for His people to do.
- There is purpose in life—Daniel and his friends were called to a difficult task: to be a holy people in an unholy culture.
- We are called to perseverance: in faith, righteousness, integrity and especially prayer. Daniel was disinterested in power for personal glory. Daniel was content to serve God wherever God put him
- God's faithfulness—we can trust God to deliver us—because he is faithful we should be faithful to Him. He never abandons His people but is with them even in the fire. Pride is always punished.
- It is possible to be a blessing and show the power and goodness of God in the midst of persecution and ungodly nations.
- One basic purpose is to reveal events to take place as our covenant God unfold the future to the coming of His Messiah and the establishment of His Kingdom. There is hope, as Israel continues to suffer. The call is to wait patiently in faith as God works out His plan. Evil will be overcome, so we should wait patiently and not give into the temptations and pressures of the sinful way of life around us.

- God intends to do more than merely judge an ungodly nation—instead He offers a saving word to those under his wrath—and for that he needs his people dwelling there—they need to be at home in Babylon revealing God as King and his Kingdom in ways that ultimately find their fulfillment in Christ.
- Why are visions given to a pagan king—one view is that when the Mede-Persians defeated the Babylonians, power passed from the Semitic people to Indo-European and remains to the present. With the destruction of the temple in 70AD an old era ended and the present began. Henceforth even Gentiles will serve the God of Daniel.

# Key Verses

- Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His. He changes times and season; he despises kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness and light dwells with him. (Daniel 2:20-22)
- In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. (Daniel 2:44)
- ...The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone He wishes (Daniel 4:25)
- Jeremiah 29: Note verse 7: Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

- Jesus promised his disciples three things—that they would be completely fearless, absurdly happy and in constant trouble (G.K. Chesterton)



- The next moment is a much beyond our grasp, and as much in God's care, as that a 100 years away. Care for the next minute is just as foolish as care for a day in the next thousand years. In neither can we do anything, in both God is doing everything. (C.S. Lewis)

Westminster Confession: God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions and things, from the greatest even to the least, by his most wise and holy providence, according to his infallible foreknowledge and free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness and mercy.