

Daniel

**One Story that
Leads to Jesus**



What kind of book?

- Daniel was a known person in Jewish history; his name is referenced as a wisdom figure in *Ezekiel 14:4* and *28:3*.
- The first six chapters are likely stories from the Babylonian exile period of David and his friends
 - Stories of faithful behavior even in tough situations
 - Encouragement for people in any time in different tribulations
 - So... is it Wisdom literature or narrative writings?
 - Hebrew canon places it among *Ketuvim*, the “Writings”
- Yet the final chapters are filled with visions and oracles
 - Does that make it one of the prophetic books? The NT bibles place it there.
 - But is it prophetic or more reporting what was happening while hiding the report under symbolic language and symbols?

A new kind of book

- The final chapters are filled with visions and oracles
 - ...that apply to what time period? The current or some future event? There is no evidence of the book's existence before the year 170 BC
 - The book, under the guise of symbols and epic language, accurately report the reign of terror (167-164 BC) under the Hellenistic ruler Antiochus IV Epiphanes
 - Message: no matter, Yahweh will triumph and keep his people safe; also serves as “resistance literature.”
- It is **Apocalyptic writing** - a new kind of book
 - The style enjoyed its greatest popularity from 200 B.C. to 100 A.D., a time of distress and persecution for Jews, and later, for Christians
 - Enoch, Jubilees, Testament of Abraham, Testament of Moses – and others

Meaning of the Symbols

- The email and webpage: *The Book of Daniel*, an introduction to the book and some of the symbols
 - E.g., the four kingdoms and the little horn (Daniel 2 and 7)
 - Babylon, the Medes, Persia and the Greeks, ending with Hellenistic Seleucid Syria and with Hellenistic Ptolemaic Egypt
 - Antiochus IV is seen as the "small horn" that uproots three others (Antiochus usurped the rights of several other claimants to become king of the Seleucid Empire)
- NT Book of Revelation
 - “harmonized” with Daniel – a new cottage industry
 - Pre-millennial, post-millennial, amillennial
 - 2nd coming
 - 1,000 year kingdom

Daniel – a complicated book

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