

The Book Of Daniel. "From reading to understanding."

HAND OUT

A. The Center: JESUS.

Jesus features in every chapter of the book.

- Ch. 1. Similar to Daniel's story.
- Ch. 2. Jesus' kingdom will replace all other kingdoms.
- Ch. 3. His appearance in the fiery furnace.
- Ch. 4. He takes Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom away for some time.
- Ch. 5. Belshazzar's death and fall of Babylon----- Jesus has the victory.
- Ch. 6. The plot against Daniel. The pharisees' plot against Jesus.
- Ch. 7. How Jesus receives the kingdom and reigns over His people.
- Ch. 8. Introduces Jesus as High Priest in the Heavenly Sanctuary.
- Ch. 9. Jesus the sacrifice----new covenant between God and His people.
- Ch.10-12 Jesus, commander-in-chief, who fights against the forces of evil and rescues His people.

B. The Literary Structure.

The book was written in Hebrew and Aramaic. Chapters 2-7 were written in Aramaic, using a parallel structure:

- A.....>Vision of the empires. (c. 2)
- B.....>The fiery furnace. (c. 3)
- C..... >Nebuchadnezzar is judged (c. 4)
- C'.....>Belshazzar is judged (c. 5)
- B'>The Lion's den. (c. 6)
- A'>Vision of the empires. (c. 7)

C. The Difference with Other Prophecies.

Example: # Isaiah and Jeremiah sometimes contain visions and symbols from actual things. However, their main goal was to communicate "the Word of the Lord." The fulfillment of their prophecies depended on how

the people responded to them. (eg. Jona's case). They were conditional.

The prophecies of Daniel are unconditional. They show God's plan for the nations, no matter the response of the people involved.

D. The Timescale.

Three ways of interpretation in the book of Daniel:

#. Preterism: All events occurred in the past.

#. Futurism: All events will occur in the future.

#. Historicism: The events cover the history between Daniel and the End Time.

E. The Practical Relevance.

#. God is sovereign over our lives.

#. God is in control of history.

#. God provides an example to follow, in the end time.