

A MESSAGE FOR THE AGES
Background and Introduction to *Daniel*

- I. Author (Daniel 7:2, 15, 28; 8:1, 15, 27; etc.)
 - A. A CAPTIVE JEW taken to BABYLON by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC (1:1-6)
 - B. EXISTENCE confirmed by Ezekiel (Ezek. 14:14, 20; 28:3)
 - C. PROPHETIC role confirmed by CHRIST (Mt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14)

- II. Context
 - A. Biblically
 - 1. LXX, *Vulgate*, and German place him LAST among Major Prophets
 - 2. Hebrew places him with the WRITINGS
 - B. Historically
 - 1. Begins with defeat of JERUSALEM by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC
 - 2. Ends in third year of CYRUS of PERSIA in 536 BC
 - C. Stylistically *apocalyptic* in character
 - 1. Reveals FUTURE EVENTS
 - 2. Uses FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE
 - 3. Emphasizes JUDGMENT and REWARD
 - 4. Deals primarily with END TIMES
 - D. Thematically *didactic* rather than *biographic*
 - 1. To ENCOURAGE Israel in captivity
 - 2. To REVEAL details of God's PROGRAM

III. Structure

A. By CONTENT

1. Chapters 1-6 are HISTORIC
2. Chapters 7-12 are PROPHETIC
3. Non-canonical apocryphal ADDITIONS include accounts called *Prayer of Azarias*, *Song of the Three Holy Children*, *Susanna*, and *Bel and the Dragon*

B. By LANGUAGE

1. Introduction in HEBREW (1:1 – 2:3)
2. Program for the GENTILES in ARAMAIC (2:4 – 7:28)
3. Program for ISRAEL in HEBREW (8:1 – 12:13)

IV. Content

A. Prophecy

1. Prophecy of world events, LITERALLY fulfilled during the 600 years from BABYLON to CHRIST
2. Prophecy of events yet UNFULFILLED referred to as “the TIME of the END” (Dan. 9:27; 11:36 – 12:13)

B. Theology

1. God is SOVEREIGN, LOVING, OMNIPOTENT, OMNISCIENT, RIGHTEOUS, and MERCIFUL
2. Christ is coming to DIE, to JUDGE the earth, and to RULE
3. ANGELS serve GOD and minister to MEN
4. Mankind is DEPRAVED and deserves JUDGMENT, yet has opportunity for MERCY and GRACE
5. “At the END of the DAYS” there is coming a RESURRECTION