

# 1—Introducing Daniel

“The Book of Daniel”

Pastor Mike Cooke

## 1. The Setting of the Book

- A. Neo-Babylonian Empire (597-539 BC)
- B. Medo-Persian Empire (539-333 BC)

## 2. The Context of the Book

- A. Greek Empire (333-312 BC)
- B. Seleucid Empire (312-63 BC) “Maccabean Revolt”
- C. Kingdom of Israel (140-37 BC) “Hasmonean Dynasty”

## 3. The Authorship of the Book

- A. Aware of the two campaigns in Egypt (169 and 167 BC)
- B. Recounts the persecution of Antiochus Epiphanes IV (167-164 BC)
- C. Is unaware of the circumstances of his death (December 164)
- D. Not included in the Canon of the Prophets (200 BC)
- E. Quoted in Sibylline Oracles and popular at Qumran (150 BC)
- F. Completed sometime between 167-164

## 4. The Purpose of the Book

- A. *Historical Prophecy*—Retelling the stories from the past to reframe and inspire the present (chapters 1-6)
- B. *Apocalyptic Prophecy*—Revelation of heavenly secrets to make sense of earthly realities (chapters 7-12)

## 5. The Languages of the Book

- A. Hebrew—Introduction (1-2:4a); Apocalyptic Visions (8-12)
- B. Aramaic—Court Tales and Two Dreams (2:4b-7)

## 6. The Oppression of King Antiochus (167-164 BC)

- A. He broke the peaceful treaty he had made with the Jews
- B. He looted the temple of its treasures and sacred articles
- C. He forbade them from offering the daily sacrifices
- D. He killed many inhabitants and took others as slaves
- E. He built a high citadel that overlooked the temple
- F. He built an idol altar upon God’s altar
- G. He sacrificed pigs on the altar, and made them do so
- H. He forbade worship and made them worship his idols
- I. He commanded them not to circumcise their babies
- J. He destroyed any Hebrew Scriptures he found

# Josephus: Antiquities of the Jews

Book 12, ch. 5 §35 [12.35]

Written 94 AD

## **How, Upon the Quarrels One Against Another About the High Priesthood Antiochus Made an Expedition Against Jerusalem, Took The City and Pillaged the Temples**

Now it came to pass, after two years, in the hundred forty and fifth year, on the twenty-fifth day of that month which is by us called Chasleu, and by the Macedonians Apelleus, in the hundred and fifty-third Olympiad, that the king came up to Jerusalem, and, pretending peace, he got possession of the city by treachery; at which time he spared not so much as those that admitted him into it, on account of the riches that lay in the temple; but, led by his covetous inclination, (for he saw there was in it a great deal of gold, and many ornaments that had been dedicated to it of very great value,) and in order to plunder its wealth, he ventured to break the league he had made.

So he left the temple bare, and took away the golden candlesticks, and the golden altar [of incense], and table [of shew-bread], and the altar [of burnt-offering]; and did not abstain from even the veils, which were made of fine linen and scarlet. He also emptied it of its secret treasures, and left nothing at all remaining; and by this means cast the Jews into great lamentation, for he forbade them to offer those daily sacrifices which they used to offer to God, according to the law.

And when he had pillaged the whole city, some of the inhabitants he slew, and some he carried captive, together with their wives and children, so that the multitude of those captives that were taken alive amounted to about ten thousand.

He also burnt down the finest buildings; and when he had overthrown the city walls, he built a citadel in the lower part of the city, for the place was high, and overlooked the temple; on which account he fortified it with high walls and towers, and put into it a garrison of Macedonians. However, in that citadel dwelt the impious and wicked part of the [Jewish] multitude, from whom it proved that the citizens suffered many and sore calamities.

And when the king had built an idol altar upon God's altar, he slew swine upon it, and so offered a sacrifice neither according to the law, nor the Jewish religious worship in that country.

He also compelled them to forsake the worship which they paid their own God, and to adore those whom he took to be gods; and made them build temples, and raise idol altars in every city and village, and offer swine upon them every day.

He also commanded them not to circumcise their sons, and threatened to punish any that should be found to have transgressed his injunction.

He also appointed overseers, who should compel them to do what he commanded. And indeed many Jews there were who complied with the king's commands, either voluntarily, or out of fear of the penalty that was denounced. But the best men, and those of the noblest souls, did not regard him, but did pay a greater respect to the customs of their country than concern as to the punishment which he threatened to the disobedient; on which account they every day underwent great miseries and bitter torments; for they were whipped with rods, and their bodies were torn to pieces, and were crucified, while they were still alive, and breathed.

They also strangled those women and their sons whom they had circumcised, as the king had appointed, hanging their sons about their necks as they were upon the crosses.

And if there were any sacred book of the law found, it was destroyed, and those with whom they were found miserably perished also.