

The Book of Daniel introduces one of the most remarkable records in the Holy Scriptures. It is a book that serves as a cornerstone of biblical apologetics and a pillar of prophecy. Sir Robert Anderson, a former head of Scotland Yard, uncovered and published in his 1894 classic, *The Coming Prince*, startling chronological discoveries within Daniel that demonstrate—with mathematical precision—the reality of Jesus Christ's identity.

Why Read Daniel?

The Book of Daniel is unique for several reasons:

- **A Validation of Faith:** It provides "bulletproof" evidence of the deity of Christ. The precision of its prophecies silences skeptics and proves that the Bible has its origin from outside our dimensionality of time.
- **A Panorama of Gentile History:** While most of the Bible views history through the lens of Israel, Daniel provides a rare shift. Significant portions are written in Aramaic (the international Gentile language of that day) rather than Hebrew, focusing on the period of Gentile dominion.
- **The Most Authenticated Book:** Despite critics' attempts to claim it was written later, the historical and archaeological evidence is overwhelming. For instance, the **Septuagint** (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) was completed nearly three centuries before the birth of Christ, proving that Daniel was already "in black and white" long before the events it predicted.
- **The Testimony of Jesus:** Most importantly, Jesus Christ Himself validated the book, referring to the author as "Daniel the prophet" (Matthew 24:15).

The Integrated Design of Scripture

As we read the book of Daniel we must remember that the Bible is an integrated message. Although penned by over forty authors across 1,500 years, the 66 books of the Bible exhibit a skillful, anticipatory design. Every place name, number, and linguistic structure bears the mark of a single Author. As it is written:

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16, NKJV)

Historical Context

When Nebuchadnezzar began his conquest of Judah in 605 BC, he deported a number of Jews to Babylon, including Daniel and his friends, who were probably teenagers at the time. God blessed Daniel and gave him important places of service under four different rulers who represented three different kingdoms. When you read about Daniel, you meet a man of God who was faithful to the Lord and glorified Him in the enemy's land.

The emphasis in Daniel is on the sovereign will of God in the affairs of nations (4:25). In a series of dreams and visions, God showed Daniel the course of gentile history until the establishing of the promised kingdom on earth.

Chapters 1 and 6 are historical and reveal Daniel's godly integrity. Chapters 2–5 record his interpretations of the dreams and visions of *others*; in chapters 7–12, he receives his own visions from God and shares with us their meanings.

With Babylon's taking of Jerusalem, the "times of the Gentiles" began (Luke 21:24) and will continue until Christ returns to set up His glorious kingdom. God is in control of history and will work out His perfect plan. God also wants to have control in your life, as He did in Daniel's life; and He will—if, like Daniel, you determine in your heart to serve Him faithfully. Daniel was a man of personal integrity who had nothing to fear because he feared the Lord and served Him.