

Daniel: Intro & Daniel 1:1-7.

- I. **Prophecy means-** a prediction (spoken or written), a burden/load.

So biblical prophecy is God's unveiling His will for the present and the future.

2 Peter 1:19-21 - *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; (20) knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, (21) for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

- II. **What is prophecy for?**

- i. Prophecy unveils who God is.

Whether you're reading prophecies found in any part of the Bible, God reveals who He is, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:27 - *" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

- ii. Prophecy unveils God's plan.

Prophecy unveils His will concerning the present and the future; which is ultimately salvation through Jesus Christ and heaven as initial and final home.

Isaiah 46:9-10 - *Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,'*

- iii. **Prophecy strengthens faith.**

When God reveals who He is and what He's doing, He intends that our trust and faith in Him grows stronger. Knowing God, His plan and being a witness of His work should excite us not only to follow Him but to be fruitful in Him.

2 Peter 3:14 - *Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless...*

- iv. **Prophecy brings comfort and hope.**

When we see the fulfillment of prophecy we receive comfort and hope, especially when waiting and suffering. There is also encouragement that we witness prophetic fulfillments.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 - *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (17)Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (18)Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

III. Daniel:1-7

The prophet Daniel lived in the sixth century (597 BC) before the birth of Jesus. During this approximate period: **the** Mayan civilization flourished in Mexico, Confucius and Buddha lived.

i. [\(1-2\)](#) Nebuchadnezzar conquers Jerusalem.

Israel was divided into two, the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern (Judah). The Nation was in her lowest moral point was they had made an alliance with Egypt to protect themselves from the Babylonians. So the Egyptian Pharaoh had King Jehoiakim ascend to the throne. Nebuchadnezzar (Nebu protects the crown), the mighty ruler of the Babylonian Empire, besieged and conquered Judah (the first conquest) with the LORD's permission. This was prophesied in;

Isaiah 39:7 - And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

"The two main reasons for the captivity were Israel's idolatry, and their failure to observe the sabbaths for the land ([Leviticus 25:1-7](#) and [26:2-35](#)). This shows that God always settles accounts with those who refuse to respond to His warnings. In the 587 B.C. invasion, the city of Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed ([2 Kings 25:9-10](#))."

"The confiscation of these items and their deposit in a Babylonian temple was a dramatic declaration by Nebuchadnezzar saying, "my god is better than your God." Was the God of Israel able to vindicate Himself?

ii. [\(3-7\)](#) Babylon's system of indoctrination.

Nebuchadnezzar not only confiscated Temple articles and utensils, but also the best of Israel's teenage Princes. Why is he interested in the Hebrews boys, not the Babylonian ones? He is making sure Israel's would be and future leaders are converted to idolatry.

In Babylon, the Hebrew youths are groomed for the civil service for three years:

- Education and language of the Babylonians
- Royal diet
- Identity change:-

The name **Daniel** (meaning *God is my judge*) was change to Belteshazzar (meaning *Bel's prince*).

The name **Hannaniah** (meaning *Beloved by the LORD*) was changed to Shadrach t(meaning *Illumined by Sun-god*).

The name **Mishael** (meaning *Who is as God*) was changed to Meshach meaning (*Who is like Venus*).

The name **Azariah** (meaning *The LORD is my help*) was changed to **Abed-Nego** (meaning *Servant of Nego*).

“The purpose of the education, food and name-change was an effort at total indoctrination, working to make these young Jewish men leave behind their Hebrew God and culture.” Satan uses a similar strategy against believers today, wanting to indoctrinate us into the world system. Satan wants us to:

- Feed on what the world offers.
- Identify ("name") ourselves in reference to the world.
- Educate ourselves in the ways of the world.

Undoubtedly, Nebuchadnezzar wanted to communicate to these young men, "look to me for everything."

Mark 12:30 - *‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment*

1Pe 5:8 - *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

1John 2:15-16 - *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.*