

DANIEL

AT-A-GLANCE

BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Book of Daniel

TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Major Prophecies; Daniel is the last of four major prophets (including Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel)

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

536-530 BC



AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Daniel was exiled to Babylon with a group of young Israelite nobles. Due to their outstanding credentials in Israel, the Babylonians felt the young men could be of use in service in their new homeland. Once Daniel arrived, the leadership in Babylon renamed him Belteshazzar in an effort to help him absorb his new culture and forget his Jewish roots. His faith was strong, however.

Daniel is probably best known for the story in Daniel 6, when he was thrown into the lions' den for refusing to give up his Jewish God and traditions. The lions did not eat him. Daniel lived in exile throughout the Jews' 70-year captivity (1:21; 9:2), eventually rising to become one of only three administrators over the provincial governors. However, he never forgot that he was Jewish and never stopped practicing Judaism.

His faithfulness, wisdom, and education enabled Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar to say that the God of Israel is God.



UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Daniel became a great leader in Babylon, so it was amazing that he kept Judaism so close to his heart and wrote the book of Daniel from there.



UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Daniel's written prophecies contained many visions, just like his compatriot Ezekiel's. He is well known to this day among Bible scholars for his very colorful visions of the end times. His visions were also full of numbers, which make them very intriguing to Bible scholars.