

# DANIEL

## AN OVERVIEW

### **Purpose**

To give an historical account of the faithful Jews who lived in captivity in Babylon and to show how Yahweh is in control of heaven and earth, directing the forces of nature, the destiny of nations, and the care of His people.

### **Author**

Daniel

### **Date**

Written in Babylon c.536 BC.

### **Audience**

The Jews held captive in Babylon and to God's people everywhere.

### **Setting**

Having been taken captive in 605 BC by Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel, a young man of noble blood, served in the government for about 60 years during the reigns of kings Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, and Cyrus.

### **Special Features**

Daniel's apocalyptic visions in chapters 8-12 give a glimpse of God's plan for the ages, including a direct prediction of the Messiah.



### **Key Verses**

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." (3:16-18 NIV)

### **Key People**

Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego, Belshazzar, and Darius.

### **Key Places**

Nebuchadnezzar's palace, the den of lions, the fiery furnace, Belshazzar's banquet hall.