

We've Been Invaded - Daniel 1

Why study the book of Daniel?

Daniel 1-6 is history. If you want to see into America's future, just peer into Israel's past. ***Unlike ancient Israel, America is not a theocracy, and we are not God's "chosen nation." But the parallels are striking. History is repeating itself.***

Daniel 7-12 is prophecy. It will help us understand what is happening and what is yet to happen. ***Daniel shares prophecies we can prove historically and that were fulfilled literally, which is why we can trust that the remaining prophecies will be fulfilled eventually, literally, and absolutely.***

Daniel 1:1, "In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it."

What is the significance of Babylon?

Babylon historically is one of the largest, greatest, and most wicked cities of the ancient world. ***It had grown up on the Euphrates in what is the modern-day country of Iraq. It was originally known as Babel, home to the "tower of Babel" (Genesis 11:1-9) and founded by Nimrod whose name means "Lord of Rebellion" (Genesis 10:8-10).***

In the Bible, Babylon is a symbol of evil—a wicked world system that is anti-God and anti-Christ. ***Babylon is found 280 times in Scripture and often used as a metaphor for a world system that has been in opposition to God's Kingdom since the time of Nimrod, clear into the present day.***

Genesis 10:8-10, Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord." And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Genesis 11:1-9, Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Babylon is the origin of all counterfeit and pagan religions from antiquity to the 21st century. ***Not only is it a symbol of a wicked world system in rebellion against God's kingdom, but also a***

wicked religious system that comes to fruition in Revelation 17:5, "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

While the city of Babylon died long ago, the spirit of Babylon lives on—it's alive and well in 21st century America! **Two kingdoms are colliding. One led by the "gods" of Babylon, and the other led by the God of the Bible.**

Babylon = Rebellion

The theme of the book of Daniel is God's sovereignty! The world's kingdoms rise and fall, but the kingdom of our God will abide forever!

Revelation 18:1-5, After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

Like Daniel, we can't get out of Babylon, but it's time to get Babylon out of us. **Nebuchadnezzar could carry Daniel into Babylon, but he could never get Babylon into Daniel.**

We are captives in Babylon, but we are NOT captives to Babylon. **Daniel had no fear of the king of Babylon because He knew the King of Heaven.**