

# The Book of Daniel

## Introduction

### Author

**Daniel** is as established as the **author**, throughout the contents of the book of **Daniel**. Daniel is told in Daniel 12:4, “**seal the book** until the time of the end”, and in verse 9, we read, “Go your way, **Daniel**, for the **words** are closed”. **Jesus** also attributes the book’s **authorship to Daniel** in the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14).

### Date

The **dating** of the book of **Daniel** varies from 6<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C. Liberal critics, who attribute the authorship to the **Maccabees** in 166 B.C., give the book a **late date**. The purpose of the late dating is denial of the super natural aspect of the book.

**Conservative Christians** and **Jews**, who accept the **super natural** aspect of **scripture** have no problem with dating the book from **605 to 536 B.C.**, during the **time of Daniel**. In **Ryrie’s introduction to Daniel** he dates the writing to be **537 B.C.**

### The Prophet

**Daniel**, whose name means “**God is my Judge**”, was a **statesman** in the court of heathen monarchs. Taken **captive** as a youth to **Babylon** by **Nebuchadnezzar** in **605 B.C.**, he spent the rest of his long life there as a **government official** and as a **prophet** of the true **God**. In the New Testament, **Daniel** is identified as a **prophet** by **Jesus**. (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14).

Since he did not occupy the **prophetic office**, the book of **Daniel** is found in the **third** division of the **Hebrew Bible** known as the “**Writings**,” rather than in the **second**, the “**Prophets**.” Throughout his life he was **uncompromising** and **faithful to his God**.

Daniel was a contemporary of **Jeremiah**, **Ezekiel**, **Joshua**, (the high priest of the restoration), **Ezra**, and **Zerubbabel**.

### Purpose

Daniel’s ministry **was to** testify, in his **personal life** and in his **prophecies**, to the **sovereign power** of **God**. Though in **exile**, the people of **Israel** were not deserted by **God**, and **Daniel revealed** many details about **His plan** for their **future**. He also traced the **course of Gentile world powers** from his own day to the **second coming** of the **Messiah**.

(Introduction uses excerpts taken from the Ryrie Study Bible, **Daniel Introduction**,  
pg. 1343; also from Truthnet.Org., **Introduction to the Book of Daniel**)