

VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

DANIEL

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Introduction to Apocalyptic (Revelation) Literature

Written during a time of intense persecution to encourage believers to hold on to their faith

Narrative or story form, rather than oracles, sermons, proverbs, songs or poems

Language is often symbolic to hide its meaning from oppressors

Forecasts the destruction of evil and triumph of good with certainty

Eschatology (doctrine of last things or days)

Apocalyptic literature among African Americans

Some of the Negro spirituals

Harriet Tubman's use of Steal Away

Some young slaves view of Canaan as the North or Canada

Uncle Remus tales

Daniel as Prophecy and Apocalyptic Literature

Daniel in context: Synopsis of history of God's people

Call of Abraham

Joseph entrance into Egypt and Egyptian slavery

Period of the judges

Emergence of monarchy and Divided kingdom

Assyrian conquest of northern tribes in 722 BC

Fall of Judah to Babylon in 588-587 BC

Fall of Babylon to Persia

Rise of Alexander the Great and Emergence of Hellenization

Antiochus Epihanes IV

Daniel as example of faithfulness (periods of persecution during Persian: Book of Esther)

Structure of Daniel: Final form around 167-164 BC

Chapters 1-6: Faith Adventures of Daniel and his friends (Aramaic)

Chapter 1-The Hebrew boys and the food test which makes them ten times stronger

Chapter 2-Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream and is promoted

Chapter 3-Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace

Chapter 4-Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's second dream

Chapter 5-Daniel interprets handwriting on the wall

Chapter 6-Daniel in the lion's den

Chapters 7-12: Dreams and Visions (Hebrew)

Chapter 7-Four Beasts

Chapter 8-Ram and Goat

Chapter 9-Daniel's prayer

Chapter 10-11- Conflict in the Heavens

Chapter 12-Resurrection of the Dead

Continuing relevance of Daniel and the word of God

Culture, personalities, symbol and words may change but truth of God's word stands

throughout the ages.

Reminders: Isaiah 40: 8

Matthew 24: 35

II Timothy 4: 1-8

Revelation 22: 18-21 (Judgment and Grace)