

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

09-03-2023 // WEEK 35 NOTES

Esther 6 - Daniel 12

Esther

- This week, you finished the book of Esther. As a reminder from last week's reading, Esther was written in the late 400's. It is among the historical books.
- For many years, some Jewish scholars did not think Esther should be canonical (in the 37 books of authority in the OT). That's because **the name "God" is not actually ever mentioned**. Yet the sovereign hand of the Father is seen throughout the book. His overarching providence is what guides the entire story. Just a fabulous story.
- As I mentioned when you began Esther, it's one you dads should teach to your kids. And especially to those of you with daughters: how God wants to use women in leadership/government and power for his purposes.

Daniel

- Daniel is a return to the prophetic books. It has two divisions.
- The first six chapters have to do with Daniel's life and calling (along with his three friends: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego). Daniel is one of the few biblical characters whom no one can find any flaws! The stories include refusal to worship a false god, a fiery furnace, and the lion's den. God's faithfulness is seen in all the stories. Note too if you can find a theophanic appearance of Jesus! Fascinating.
- The final chapters are **predictive prophecies**. This information is explicitly specified. It foretells nations and places. My own understanding of prophecy believes that there are references to Jesus's exact coming (time and location) and the years of the Great Tribulation right before Jesus's second coming. Your footnotes in your Bible may help you.

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- **The end of Daniel:** It is here you see some of the future prophecies of Daniel take place. You have already seen how many of the visions Daniel had were about his immediate future: Babylon taken over by the Medo/Persian empire, to Greece, (then a division of the Greek Empire into four sections – a reference to Antiochus Epiphenes IV and the “abomination of desolation” that refers to him but later in 1 Thessalonians it refer to the Antichrist), and finally Rome.
- There are also future references – especially about the **Seven Year Great Tribulation**.
- **Daniel 10** is a fascinating chapter on spiritual warfare. Daniel prays and fasts for three weeks for help from heaven to address a certain issue/problem he was having. It took Michael the archangel, the mighty warrior angel, who many feel is the overseeing angel over Israel, three weeks because he had to deal with the principality of Persia, a demonic agency that oversaw Persia in that day! Spiritual warfare is real and prayer is a necessity in asking for angelic help to come to our aid here!

Next week you will return to the historical books: **Ezra and Nehemiah**. **Ezra** is about the rebuilding of the destroyed Temple. He returned to rebuild it around 538 BC under an edict of King Cyrus of Persia (Persia had displaced Babylon as the world power). And **Nehemiah** is rebuilding the walls. This occurred around 444 BC under King Artaxerxes. Some (me included) think that this is the date that begins the Daniel prophecy of 70 x's 7 to Jesus entering Jerusalem. Pretty fascinating. But Nehemiah is a book about leadership. Read it through those lenses. It's a great book on how to lead from God's perspective, with God's vision, for his glory.

Ok, that's it for this week.

David