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THE MINOR PROPHETS

BOOK 1 – DANIEL PART 2

In Daniel 1:7 we see the four young Hebrew teenagers were given new names to honor pagan Babylonian gods. Daniel was renamed Belteshazzar in honor of the Babylonian god Bel, which was their name for the Canaanite god Baal. Daniel did not let that deter his allegiance to Jehovah. He remained true to the standards of the Mosaic Law and to Jehovah God.

Daniel was a prophetic seer and dream interpreter. We shall briefly mention his dreams and the life events that occurred with him.

Chapter two deals with Nebuchadnezzar's troubling dream which he could not remember but knew it was significant. Nobody in his court of seers (pagan) could even tell him of his dream and what he saw in it. God gave Daniel what the dream was and the interpretation. Daniel then described the dream exactly and gave Nebuchadnezzar the interpretation. The dream was of an idol, a huge image in the shape of a man, but made with a mixture of gold, silver, brass, and brass with clay. The dream was prophetic which prophesied four kingdoms beginning with Babylon up until the Roman Empire. Nebuchadnezzar rewarded Daniel, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego because of this dream interpretation.

Chapter three shows the deliverance of Daniel's three friends from the fiery furnace. They made a stand for Jehovah, and they were delivered.

Chapter four deals with Nebuchadnezzar's dream of an extremely large tree that was cut down. Daniel's interpretation was that the king was that tree. He would be taken off the throne and live as a wild beast in the field because of his pride. He would later be restored to the throne as he humbled himself and recognized that it was Jehovah God alone to whom he owed his position as king. In Daniel 4:17 Nebuchadnezzar published praise throughout the empire to "the King of Heaven."

Chapter five tells of King Belshazzar's feast and his defilement of God's holy vessels which had been taken from the temple in Jerusalem. Daniel interprets the handwriting on the wall. Belshazzar is slain as King Darius captures Babylon and exalts Daniel.

Chapter six tells of the evil plot against Daniel and his deliverance from the lion's den.

Consistent through these six chapters is how God protects and promotes those who stand faithful to Him.

Tomorrow we will consider chapters 7-12 which deal with the end time events.