

Introduction:

The Biblical book called Daniel is one of the great end-time prophecies of the scriptures. It is classified as one of the two significant apocalyptic pronouncements, the other being Revelation, from God's heart to humankind. They are "love letters" – gifts from the sovereign God to give hope to a lost world. The writers of the study journal we are using in this course state, "Daniel and Revelation both reveal the great cosmic conflict as the curtain is drawn aside and readers are shown the struggle between God and the powers of evil.... The message of both books is that God has triumphed and is working His will to make these devilish deceptions plain to all, at which time He will no longer allow them to continue." (p. 1) Daniel begins in a narrative, revealing God's providence, power, and presence and that nothing in this life takes place without His rule. In this introduction to the study of this book, we will consider the stage, the backdrop - the historical context of this great prophetic message.



Focus Text:

¹⁶Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the Lord: ¹⁷‘Behold, the days are coming when all that *is* in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,’ says the Lord. ¹⁸ ‘And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’”

2 Kings 20:16–18 (NKJV)

What is the back story of Isaiah’s prophetic pronouncement?

The Beginning!

According to the Bible, what took place that put the Hebrew nation in its unique relationship with God? (See Genesis 15:1-7.)

What were the blessings of obedience and curses of disobedience regarding this covenant with God? (See. Deuteronomy 11:26-28, 28; Jeremiah 15:8-12; II Chronicles 36:5-8)

Conclusion:

As you considered the passages in the previous sections, how does the book of Daniel relate to what you have read?
