

“The Son of Man in Babylon” - Book of Daniel - Craig Crawshaw

Daniel 7:13 *I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him.*

Matthew 26:63-64 *And the high priest said to [Jesus], “I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God.” Jesus said to him, “You have said it yourself; nevertheless, I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”*

Is Jesus in the book of Daniel, found in the courts of the Babylon? – Absolutely! In the above Scriptures Jesus quoted from the book of Daniel and claimed to be the very Son of Man of which Daniel was prophesying, borrowing from his ancient words.

But this is only the “tip of the iceberg” in finding Jesus in Daniel. Today we will discover Jesus B.C. in the book of Daniel in three specific ways:

- 1) **In PERSON** (as seen in the person of Daniel)
- 2) **In POWER** (as seen as the Son of God in the fiery furnace and den of lions)
- 3) **In PROPHECY** (as seen in the visions of Daniel, especially as the coming Messiah)

Here then is our working outline. Take your Holy Scriptures, turn to the book of Daniel, and let's explore, discover and marvel at “The Son of Man in Babylon.”

JESUS IN THE PERSON OF DANIEL

Now I don't mean to say that Daniel was Jesus in pre-incarnate form. Rather, I mean to say that Daniel was a type of Jesus and thus points us to the “greater Daniel” to come. Many of the characters of the Old Testament point us to Jesus – Abraham by his faith, Moses by his humility, Joshua by his courage, David by his heart for God. And this is one of the ways that we see Jesus throughout the stories of the Old Testament – through the excellent character shown by many of the men and women of God. And in these examples, we see Christ foreshadowed in his earthly perfection.

Of all the characters of the Bible exemplifying the integrity and uprightness of Jesus, Daniel is exceptional. He was not without sin, for we hear him confess his sin before God (Daniel 9:20). Yet the accounts given in Daniel reveal nothing but outstanding and impeccable behavior to which any of us would strive to emulate. Let's trace Daniel's stellar character.

- ✓ He chose purity over defilement

Daniel 1:8 *But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank...*

- ✓ He chose God's light over the world's darkness

Daniel 2:22 *[Daniel of God] It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him.*

- ✓ He chose humility over taking credit

Daniel 2:30 *But as for me, this mystery has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than in any other living man...*

- ✓ He chose boldness in urging righteousness over avoiding conflict

Daniel 4:27 *Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: break away now from your sins by doing righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.*

- ✓ He chose doing the right thing over taking bribes

Daniel 5:17 *Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Keep your gifts for yourself or give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the*

interpretation known to him.”

✓ He chose integrity over rebelliousness

Daniel 6:4 *But they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him.*

May we, as was Jesus, be found PURE, FOLLOWING THE LIGHT, HUMBLE, BOLD, CHOOSING THE RIGHT and A PERSON OF INTEGRITY. This was Daniel, and he points us to the greater Daniel to come – Jesus, the Son of Man.

JESUS IN POWER IN PLACES OF TESTING

We should all know well the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego in the fiery furnace. Because these three men of integrity would not bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue, they were sentenced to burn in the furnace of blazing fire. In fact, the King was so angry he gave orders for the fire to be heated to seven times its usual heat.

- ✓ **Daniel 3:21** *Then these men were tied up in their trousers, their coats, their caps and their other clothes, and were cast into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire.*
- ✓ The fire was so hot it burned and killed the men who carried up the three Hebrews!
- ✓ **Daniel 3:23** *But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire still tied up. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he said to his high officials, “Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?” They replied to the king, “Certainly, O king.” He said, “Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods!”*

Only those who cannot fathom a miracle-working God will call this a “fairy tale.” But we who trust the veracity of the Holy Scriptures (as well as the confirming reports of many later non-Biblical documents of these events) see this as the miracle provision of God's protection. And Christians have long believed that the fourth man walking in the fire was none other than a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus, the Son of God – and this is what the king saw – one “like unto a son of God.”

But isn't it just like Jesus our Lord to walk with us through the flames of trial and temptation? – Yes! He may not be so visible before or after the trial. Note he did not come out of the fire with the three. Yet He surely walks with us and guides us “through the valley of death” (Psalm 23:4) and through “fiery trials” (1 Peter 1:7).

And when Daniel was caught praying by those who wanted to discredit him, he was cast into the lion's den to face certain death. But the next morning he walked out unharmed saying,

Daniel 6:22 *My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime.*

Was the “angel” who protected Daniel, Jesus? We cannot be sure – but it would be just like our Lord to be the One to protect us from lions – whether physical or spiritual ones, like Satan who “prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

God ever protects his own from trial and temptation, whether by an appearance of Jesus Himself, or by the indwelling Holy Spirit, or by protecting angels or by human “angels” sent to intervene. However, Jesus was surely in the fiery furnace and lions' den protecting His own.

JESUS IN PROPHECY AS MESSIAH

Most magnificently of all, Jesus is seen in the Babylonian courts of Daniel as the “Son of Man” come as Messiah through the breathtaking visions of Daniel of the end times. Many sermons could be given on these prophecies, but for our purposes let me give you three “highlights” of Jesus revealed, B.C.

1. **He is the Rock** that crushes the nations and establishes His everlasting kingdom.

Daniel's interpretation of king Nebuchadnezzar's dream ends with a prophecy of an everlasting kingdom.

Daniel 2:44 *In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.*

Last week we learned of the “Righteous Branch” who would establish an everlasting kingdom, and we learned that this “Branch” was Jesus. Likewise, this “stone” or “rock” that crushes the nations to establish an everlasting kingdom is likewise Jesus – the King of kings. Note this stone was “cut out of the mountain without hands” – speaking of the eternal and non-made-made nature of this stone. The gold kingdom was the Babylonian empire, the silver kingdom was the Media-Persian empire, the bronze kingdom was the Grecian empire and the iron was the Roman empire. The iron mixed with clay were the many Roman-like kingdoms that have followed through the Gentile-Church age, still going today. And someday in the not-to-distant-future, the Rock of Ages will establish His everlasting kingdom of peace here on earth.

2. **He is the Son of Man** coming in the clouds

Daniel 7:13 *I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him.*

And as we saw at the beginning of this lesson, Jesus confirmed that this is speaking of Himself when he spoke to the High Priest at his mock trial before the Sanhedrin the night before His crucifixion.

3. **He is the Messiah** who will be “cut off” after “sixty-two weeks”

Much has been written and debated about the meaning of Daniel’s famous prophecy in chapter 9. We have neither time nor inclination to delve into its depths here, except to note the timetable revealed by Daniel of when the Messiah would be come and then be “cut off” – which we take to mean, be killed.

The word translated “weeks” in the following is better rendered “periods,” or years of seven (as in a week). So, for instance, “sixty-two weeks” is translated to mean 62×7 years = 432 years. $62+7$ years = 483 years.

Daniel 9:25-26a *So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing...*

“Cut off” = karah, can mean a violent death, such as crucifixion. And “have nothing” can be translated “not for Himself” – which could be indicating prophetically that Jesus did not die for His own sin, but the for sins of others. I like that rendering, for Jesus died for me! (and for you!)

Henrietta Mears, in her classic book “What The Bible Is All About” summarizes and simplifies all this for us.

7 weeks = 49 years, beginning at the command to build and restore Jerusalem under Ezra and Nehemiah (about 450 B.C.) and ending at the beginning of the building of the wall of Jerusalem (about 401 B.C.)

62 weeks = 434 years, beginning at the building of the wall of Jerusalem (about 401 B.C.) and ending at the crucifixion of Messiah (A.D. 33). If these dates are not right on, they are certainly close. And they fit perfectly with the supposed date of Jesus. Remarkable! Supernatural! Jesus B.C.!

Later in the same prophecy Daniel speaks of the final “week” of seven years in which the antichrist will rise during what we commonly call the “tribulation.” I know it is fascinating to think further on this amazing prophecy that has so many fulfillments in the book of Revelation. But not here.

But for now, marvel at Jesus in the Babylonian court of Daniel. He is seen in the impeccable character of Daniel, who is a type of what Jesus would be in perfection. He is seen in the power of the Son of God in the fiery furnace and lions’ den, protecting his people. And He is seen as Messiah who will come and be “cut off” (crucified).

JESUS IS PERFECT IN CHARACTER – follow His example.

JESUS IS POWERFUL IN PROTECTING HIS PEOPLE – know He is there in your need.

JESUS IS PROPHETICALLY MESSIAH, CRUCIFIED TO PAY FOR YOUR SIN – receive Him as Lord.