

The Book of Daniel

1. What is this book?
 - a. In the Hebrew Bible it is part of the Writings (Ketuvim)
 - b. In the Greek Canon, it is considered one of the Four Major Prophets
 - i. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
 - ii. It is written much later, 2nd century BC, but set in the 6th BC
2. A bit of history
 - a. Monarchy, United and Divided
 - b. The Catastrophes: 735 BC (Assyria) 597 BC (Babylon)
 - c. Period of Exile: 2 Kings 17: 18 ff. Persia: the age of tolerance and Satraps: (Nehemiah, Ezra)
 - d. Restoration Circa. 450 BC:
 - e. Greece: Alexander: Ptolemy (Egypt) Selucid (Syria) Macedon (Greece) The Problem of Cohesion: Solution: Hellenism
3. A Quick review of Prophecy (Nebim)
 - a. Seers: 1 Samuel 9 - a seer was a professional one consulted
 - b. Classical 8th century Prophecy: Hosea, Isaiah, Amos
 - c. Exilic: Ezekiel (ch 37: dry bones)
 - d. Post Exilic: Haggai, Zechariah
 - e. Apocalyptic: discussion of the end times in coded language, heavy use of symbolism: Mark 13, Revelation
4. The Book of Daniel
 - a. The Food Test: what can you eat of the ruler's food?
 - b. Daniel etc do not defile themselves and so they prosper (ref. Hospitality)
 - c. This is the birth of Kashrut ("Kosher") laws
 - i. No consumption of blood of any kind (salting)
 - ii. Separation of milk and meat, and Parve (inc 7 grains)
 - iii. Prohibited: Carrion eaters, all reptiles, bottom feeding (crabs) all insects, pork, various birds (crow), swarmers
 - iv. Accepted: chicken, beef, lamb: cloven hoves and chews the cud and fish with fins and scales
 - v. See Leviticus ch 11