

# **“Visions” of the Future: The Book of Daniel**

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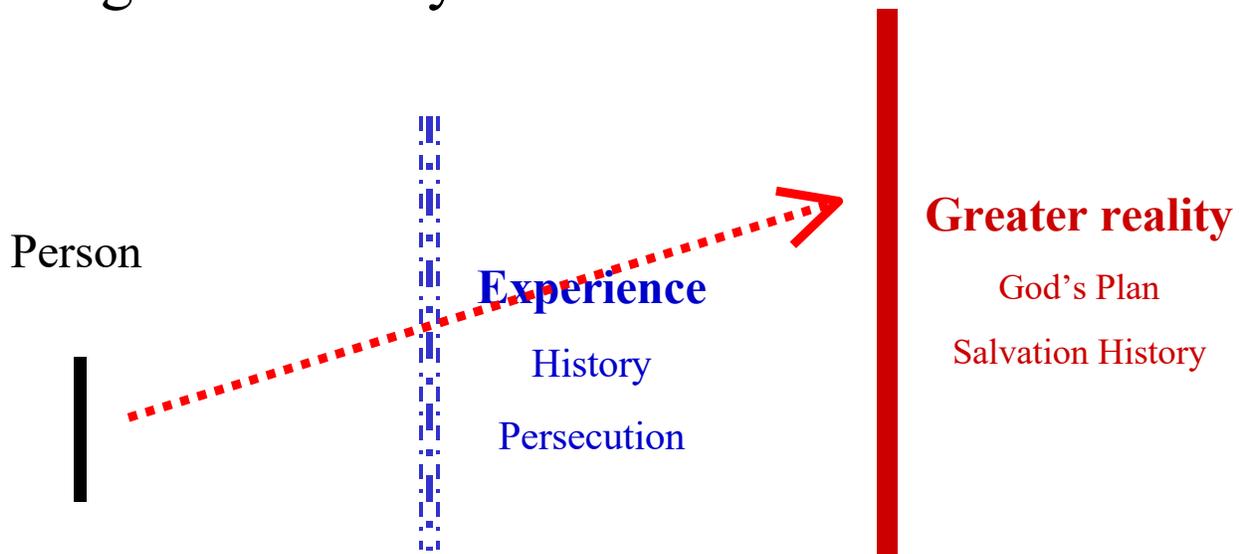
# Styles of Writing in the Bible

- History
- Biography
- Letters & Correspondence
- Songs
- Legal Codes
- Theology
- Prophetic literature
- Wisdom literature
- Mythology
- Apocalyptic Writings

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## “Apocalyptic” Mindset

- To pull back the veil; to uncover – *reveal*
- Ability to see through the experience to the greater reality behind it.



# Apocalyptic Literature

- Revelatory Literature
  - Narrative Framework
  - Mediated by Otherworldly Being
  - Human Recipient
  - Transcendent Reality
    - Temporal
    - Spatial
  - **Historical Period**
    - 200 BC – 200 AD
  - **Old Testament**
    - *Book of Daniel*
    - c. 168-165 BC
  - **New Testament**
    - *Book of Revelation*
    - c. 90-100 AD
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## Apocalyptic Writings

*Arose principally out of conflict*

- Looks at the Conflict of the *present*
- Calls on *past* experiences and imagery
- Gives hope for the *future*
- Provides purpose / meaning for the *present*

*Expresses an understanding to what the present conflict is all about*

# Setting of Apocalypse

## The Book of Daniel

*Setting:* Babylonian Exile – 587-539 B.C.

*Written:* Antiochene Persecution – 168-165 B.C.

**587-539 B.C.** – Babylonians/Chaldeans

**538-333 B.C.** – Persians

**333-323 B.C.** – Greeks/Alexander

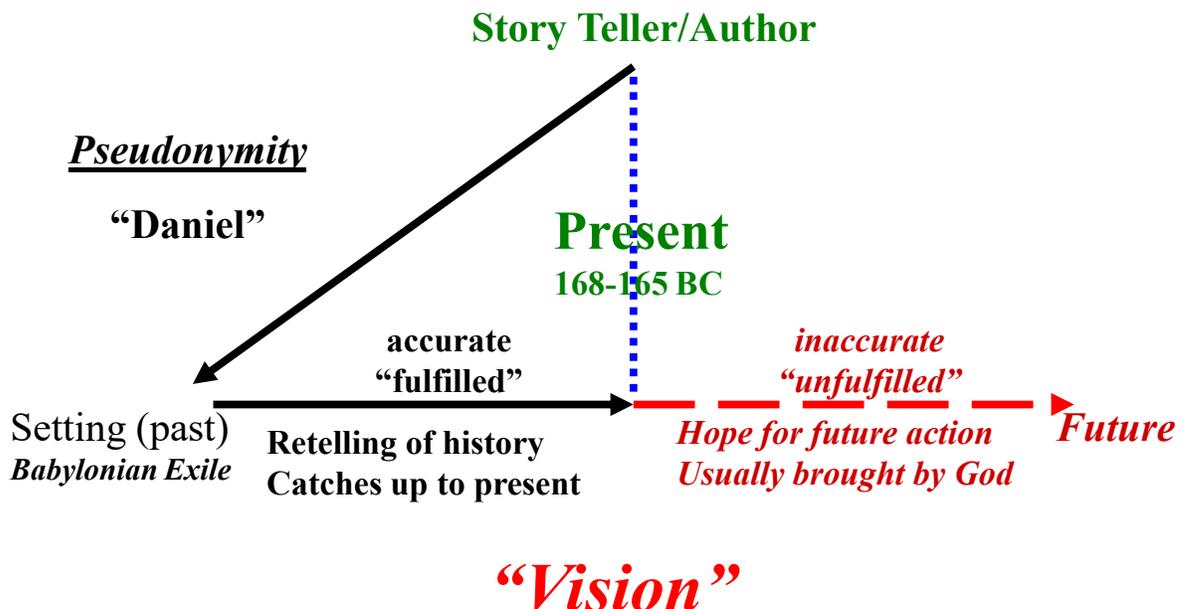
**323-198 B.C.** – Greeks/Ptolemys (Egypt)

**198-165 B.C.** – Greeks/Seleuces (Syria)

**165-163 B.C.** – Persecution & Maccabean revolt

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## Setting of Daniel's Visions



# *Vision of the Statue*

## Daniel 2

### Kingdoms

- *Gold* – Nebuchadnezzar
- *Silver* – Median / Chaldean
- *Bronze* – Persian
- *Iron* – Greek/Alexander
- *Clay* – Post Alexandrian empires



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# *The Four Beasts*

## Daniel 7

1. *Lion* - Babylonian
  2. *Bear* - Median
  3. *Leopard* - Persian
  4. *Terrifying Beast* – Greeks
- *Horns* – Hellenistic empires
  - *One Horn* – Antiochus IV



# *Gabriel and the 70 Weeks*

## Daniel 9

- **Jer 25:11-12 & 29:10** – “70 Years of Exile”
- **587 – 539 B.C.** – *Historical duration of Exile*  
however
- **587 – 165 B.C.** – Babylonian, *Persian, Greek, Ptolemaic & Seleucid rule*

420 years – no independent Jewish Kingdom

**Gabriel’s Decree:** 70 weeks of years = 490 years

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## *Hellenistic Wars*

### Daniel 10-12

- **Dan 10-11** - Thinly veiled history from Exile to Antiochene persecution
- **Dan 11:5-45** –Ptolemaic and Seleucid Dynasties
- **Dan 11:39** – Author catches up to his own period
- **Dan 11:40-12:13** – Projects to Israel’s eventual liberation by its angelic protector - *Michael*
- **Dan 12:12** – *“Blessed is the man who has patience and perseveres...”*

# Progression of Daniel

## Court Tales

1. Food Test
2. **Vision of the Statue**
3. Fiery Furnace
4. Vision of the Tree
5. Writing on the Wall
6. Lion's Den

Hebrew  
Aramaic

## Visions

7. Four Beasts
8. Ram & He-Goat
9. Gabriel & the 70 Weeks
10. Hellenistic Wars

## Later Additions

13. Suzanna
14. Bel & the Dragon

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## Book of Daniel

### *summary of message*

- **Remain faithful**
  - *Daniel & the Food* – Dan 1
- **God will save from death**
  - *Fiery Furnace* – Dan 3
  - *Lion's Den* – Dan 6
- **God Makes & Breaks Kings**
  - *Vision of the Tree* – Dan 3
  - *Vision of the Hand* – Dan 5
- **God is Master of History**
  - Daniel's "Visions":***
    - *Statue* – Dan 2
    - *Four Beasts* – Dan 7
    - *Ram & He-Goat* – Dan 8
    - *Gabriel & 70 Weeks* – Dan 9
    - *Hellenistic Wars* – Dan 10ff
- **God has a purpose**
  - **God will bring us through**