I. Introduction

A. Caveats:

- None of this is original to me
- Acts 17:11—don’t believe anything I tell you

B. Why study the book of Daniel?

- If you want to know anything about eschatology or the book of Revelation, you must start in Daniel
- God lays out for us a survey of all of Gentile world history in advance
- Daniel lays out a detailed survey of Israel’s history as well
B. Why study the book of Daniel? (cont.)

- This is the age for “eschatology”
- Every issue has its time
- Dan 12—knowledge will increase
- 1948 opened people’s eyes
- Every major theme of prophecy is on its way to completion

There is so much more!
C. Presuppositions

- The Bible is the Word of God
- The Bible is Inspired
  (verbal, plenary, inspiration—2 Tim 3:16)
- The Bible is Inerrant
- Dispensationalism

Questions

- Why is it important to have an unshakable confidence in the Bible as the Word of God?
- What is at stake?
- What is your reaction/approach when confronted with attacks on the historicity or reliability of the Bible?
D. Purposes of Daniel

- Provide examples of what true dedication to God really means
- Portrays God's interest in and care over His people
- Gives information about the coming of Messiah
- Demonstrates God’s sovereignty
- Establish hope in future restoration and fulfillment of His promises
- Instruct and admonish the people of God in the crisis of faith
- Challenge the faithful to be awake and ready for the unexpected intervention of God in wrapping up all of human history

D. Purposes of Daniel (cont.)

- Serves as an indispensable introduction to New Testament prophecy
- Bridges the gap between Israel's historical books and the New Testament
- Provides details about the comings of the Anointed One, the Antichrist and other princes
- Describes the Tribulation, followed by the Lord’s return
- Speaks about the resurrections and the judgments of God.
- Lays out “the Times of the Gentiles”
- Proves there is a God in heaven who rules history
- Uncovers a great spiritual warfare among the angelic and demonic forces
D. Purposes of Daniel (cont.)

- Provides a solid basis for comfort in the midst of adversity
- Offers hope for God’s people so they will not fall away.
- Challenges God’s people to faithfulness
- Full of practical truth that is applicable to Christians today
- Foretells an everlasting kingdom ruled by the Son of Man

E. What Daniel Reveals

- The time of the Messiah’s two advents
- There is a God in heaven
- God hates and judges sin
- Pride goes before a fall
- The appropriate responses to crises
- History written in advance
- God sets the times and boundaries of nations
- God is faithful to His covenant promises and to His people Israel
E. What Daniel Reveals (cont.)

- Israel’s deliverance and blessings in the coming Millennial Age
- God’s infinite superiority over the gods of Mesopotamia
- God plans for His people from the time of the Babylonian exile until eternity
- The mighty power of prayer
- The details of the coming world kingdoms
- The triumph of the Son of Man
- The absolute sovereignty of God

F. Other Background issues:

- Authorship--great debate--not a problem if you believe Jesus

- Other authors of scripture revered Daniel
F. Other Background issues (cont.):

- Daniel is often late-dated (c. 165 B.C.)


F. Other Background issues (cont.):

- When commenting on a particular portion of Daniel, Newsom tells us that it "cannot" have been written earlier because of the supernatural implications of an earlier date (9). (Excerpted from: “Daniel Remains A Major Problem For Skeptics” Monday, May 25, 2015, http://triablogue.blogspot.com/2015/05/daniel-remains-major-problem-for.html#more)
F. Other Background issues (cont.):

- Unusual feature: Daniel is written in two languages (Hebrew & Aramaic)
- Structure options:
  1) By language--chaps. 1 & 8-12 are in Hebrew; chaps. 2-7 are in Aramaic.
  2) By subject--chaps. 1-6 are stories; chaps. 7-12 are prophecies.

G. Personal notes on Daniel the man

- The name “Daniel” means “God is my judge”
- He possessed a deep and abiding faith
- God blessed Daniel because of his faith
- Daniel was contemporary with Jeremiah and Ezekiel
- Nothing is known of his personal life outside the book
- He was the most admirable of God's servants in the Old Testament.
H. When properly read and understood, the book of Daniel can...

- Inspire us to greater faithfulness in our service to God
- Strengthen our faith in the inspiration of the Bible

I. Overview:

- The first six chapters are primarily narrative
- The last six primarily consist of visions
- Chapter breakdown:
  - Chap. 1: Daniel’s faithfulness
  - Chap. 2: Daniel rises to prominence & an overview of Gentile world history
  - Chap. 3: Nebuchadnezzar sees the power of God in the fiery furnace
  - Chap. 4: Nebuchadnezzar’s testimony
I. Overview (cont.):

- Chap. 5: The end of Babylon
- Chap. 6: Daniel transitions to the next world ruling kingdom and faces the lions
- Chap. 7: A survey of Gentile world history (from God’s perspective)
- Chaps. 8, 10, 11, 12: A series of visions detailing the Medo-Persian & Greek empires and a preview of the end times.
- Chap 9: The seventy weeks

J. Historical Context:

- Progressive revelation—God slowly progressively reveals more about His plan as we progress throughout time.
- The revealed plan of God:
  - Gen 3:15—the seed of the woman
  - the Abrahamic blessing
  - the nation is born in Egypt
  - nation is formed into a kingdom
  - the kingdom split