



Daniel – Textbook Reading



Textbook Reading

(Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)

Ch. 31

- ☐ Daniel as Apocalyptic Literature
- ☐ Theological Themes of Daniel

Study Guide for Textbook chapter 31

Daniel as Apocalyptic Literature

- According to the textbook, why is Daniel not placed with the prophets in the Hebrew Bible? How is it different? What is the significance of this?

Uniqueness of Apocalyptic Literature

- What other biblical book is an example of Apocalyptic literature? What characteristics does this book have in common with Daniel? How does this help us understand the definition of “Apocalyptic Literature”?

Characteristics of Apocalyptic Literature

- Describe the characteristics of the “intertestamental apocalyptic books.”
- What is the meaning of the term “pseudonym”? What does this say about the intertestamental books? Is there any evidence that Daniel shared this characteristic?
- What is the main focus of these apocalyptic books? Does Daniel share this kind of focus and content?
- What is the meaning of “vaticinium ex eventu”? How is this seen in intertestamental apocalypses? Is there any evidence this is happening in the book of Daniel?

“Biblical” Apocalyptic

- What distinction does the textbook make between intertestamental apocalyptic books and Biblical apocalyptic? What are some Old Testament examples of the latter?
- What difference between Daniel and the other prophets does the textbook emphasize? How does it describe the future? What does it call its readers to do? What does this tell us about Daniel and how to read and understand it well?

Theological Themes of Daniel

The Sovereignty of God

- How does Daniel demonstrate the sovereignty of God over all nations? How did this influence the attitude of the first readers? How should it influence our attitude and actions today?
- How does the author use the word “gave” to illustrate this theme? What can we learn from this? How should we respond?
- How does the book of Daniel describe the relationship between the other nations and God’s Kingdom? What difference does this make?

(Continued on the next page)

The Pride of Humankind

- According to the textbook, how is this theme demonstrated in the two main parts of Daniel? What specific examples are given?
- How did God deal with human pride in its many examples in Daniel? What does this demonstrate about God's character? How should we respond?
- How does the textbook suggest this is a problem in our time? How does it suggest we deal with it? How can you put this advice into practice?

The Ultimate Victory of God's Saints

- According to the textbook, what is the "fundamental message" of Daniel? What specifically does the book of Daniel teach about this? How does it apply?
- What does Daniel teach about the "fifth kingdom"? How does it relate to the other kingdoms? What is the point of this? What difference does this make?
- What point does the textbook make about delay in Daniel? How should God's people respond?
- What point does the textbook make about eschatology and ethics? How are these things related? What can we learn from this? How does it apply?

Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter