

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Study

By Elder W. T. Russell

1988-89

Faith Missionary Baptist Church

INTRODUCTION

“Tapes are being made of this study to go with others in past years, that even men who have not yet been called, that will be called into the ministry may hear these tapes long after I am laid under the sod. You have no idea unless you have been in this place how great the feeling of responsibility is on me. You know, they sing that song, ‘*After I leave this world below, what shall I leave behind?*’ And we’re all going to leave something, so it’s either going to be for good or for bad. I’d like for all mine to be good, but I know it hasn’t been. In order for it to have been, it would have had to have been perfect and we are not. I’m glad tonight to be able to stand here before you who have seen fit to come and be in this study. I’m glad to be numbered among this type and this kind of people. I’m glad I’m saved and on my way to heaven. We don’t know how soon we’re going to make the trip, but it’s not bothering me. The one thing that I am deeply concerned about and that is that this age-old doctrine be continued and that we stand and walk in the old paths. You know, the prophet said long ago, “*Stand ye in the ways.*” There are a lot of ways today but the old paths are not found in some of these ways. He said, “*see and ask for the old paths where is the good way and walk therein and ye shall find rest for your soul.*” So that’s what I am concerned about tonight and if I can just leave some impression on the minds of you preachers who are younger than I am that you might be able to pass on to those that will come after you, that God would use it to His honor and glory, that’s the reason I’m here tonight, for His honor and glory.”

These are Brother Russell’s words included in this study on one night of the study. It exemplifies his heart’s desire to help young preachers and others.

It is with much love and respect for this old-time Baptist soldier that we have distributed tapes and CD’s to as many people as we can. He carried his oxygen with him in the pulpit and preached as long as God gave him life and it seems to be the least we can do to try to get his wealth of knowledge of the Scriptures out to those interested in studying. Bro. Russell asked that Sonny distribute these tapes after he is gone.

This transcription has been approved by Brother Russell before he passed away. Any errors that he might have overlooked were likely the transcriber’s and not his.

Sonny and Joyce Callis

STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

By Elder W. T. Russell
December, 1988

Sometime I would like to take the subject of Heaven and preach on it. I don't know when I ever did, but that writer of this song said about as much as anyone can, "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be." We just don't have much said about it in the Bible, I mean outlining it, giving us a view of it to the extent that we could take it up as a subject and actually find the scripture to say very much about it. But it must be a wonderful place and another thing that I have thought about as a reason for not being able to say much about it is the one that exists now is going to be destroyed. The Bible tells us that it will be rolled up as a scroll and cast into a mighty wind and be carried away. I have been asked the question, just why is that anyway? Because sin has been there. The angels sinned, driven out. That's why it is going to be destroyed. Wherever sin has been is going to be destroyed.

Pray for me tonight. I hope that we may be able to get started on this subject, the Book of Daniel. I was tempted today, in reviewing the Book to go into the prophesies of the Book, but that won't work. If we're going to get it all, we had better start at the beginning. We might ask ourselves the question to begin with, just why was Israel taken captive into Babylon for seventy long years? Why? Well, the answer to that is sin and God dealt with the children of Israel because of their iniquities in many ways and at one time He was just about to cast them off and Moses said, you can't do that because if you do, you know what the other nations are going to say about that, they'll say you are unable to take care of your people. Now don't get me wrong tonight. I think all things that we read about in the scriptures are done for a purpose, but God knew what He was doing and even though Moses thought He might not, He had His feet on the ground, so to speak. So all these things that we reason about sometimes have a far deeper meaning than we are able to comprehend.

There are a lot of scriptures that we might use but this one in particular in II Kings, the 24th Chapter is pertinent. Now we don't want to hold these studies too long and I'm not saying that because I don't want to spend the time but I think that short lessons are preferable to be able to understand them and comprehend them rather than a lot of things being said and most of it forgotten about. So we're going to try to limit our studies to 30 minutes or maybe 35, we could go to 40 if it is necessary.

Let's notice this first verse: II Kings, 24:1

- 1 In his (Jehoiakim's) days, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him.
- 2 And the Lord sent against him bands of the Chaldees and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by his servants the prophets.
- 3 Surely, at the commandment of the Lord came this (now listen to this) upon Judah to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh (now that's your cause right there), according to all that he did;

- 4) And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the Lord would not pardon.
- 5) Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?
- 6) So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead.
- 7) And the king of Egypt came not again any more out of his land: for the king of Babylon had taken from the river of Egypt unto the river Euphrates all that pertained to the king of Egypt. (Took all that territory.)
- 8) Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother's name was Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem.
- 9) And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord according to all that his father had done.
- 10) At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.
- 11) And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it.
- 12) And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.
- 13) And he carried out thence all the treasures (now we're going to study this in the Book of Daniel) of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the Lord, as the Lord had said.
- 14) And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land. (Now the reason they left the poor, they didn't want to take care of them, they wouldn't be of any benefit to them.)
- 15) And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, those carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.
- 16) And all the men of might, even seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths a thousand, all that were strong and apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.

- 17) And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah.
- 18) Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.
- 19) And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.
- 20) For through the anger of the Lord it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

Now this is just a little bit of the introduction to the Book of Daniel. I always like to think about or look up to see if I can find dates - when did this all happen? What was the period of time? Now Jehoiakim reigned in Jerusalem as king from 609 to 598. Now instead of going up in numbers, we are going down because we are approaching the birth of Christ. We are ending the period before Christ. So 609 to 598 B.C. would make 11 years that he reigned. So in the third year of his reign, which would have been 606 B.C., to Jehoiakim, king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, to Jerusalem and besieged it. That's when it happened, 606 B.C.

To save some time going back and reviewing different chapters, I have here a book and I think all of you would be profited by having it if you want to learn more about the Bible, which I think you do. I want to give you a history of Jehoiakim which is given to us by William Smith's Bible Dictionary, revised by F.N. and M.A. Peloubet which is a substantial record. Now, you know, back in Old Testament times names were given that had a particular meaning and Jehoiakim just simply meant whom the Lord Jehovah sets up. Now he was called other places in the Bible Eliakim. He was the son of Josiah and he was the king of Judah. After deposing Jehoahaz, Pharaoh Necho set Eliakim upon the throne and changed his name to Jehoiakim. That's how he got his name, B.C. 608 - 597. For four years Jehoiakim was subject to Egypt when Nebuchadnezzar, after a short seige, entered Jerusalem, took the king prisoner, bound him in fetters to carry him to Babylon. He took also some of the precious vessels of the Temple and carried them to the land of Shinar. Now Babylon originally was Shinar. You read about that in Genesis in Abraham's time. Jehoiakim became tributary to Nebuchadnezzar after his invasion of Judah and continued so for three years but at the end of that time broke his oath of allegiance and rebelled against him. I read this in my lesson in II Kings. Nebuchadnezzar sent against him numerous bands of Chaldeans (or Caldeans), with Syrians, Moabites and Ammonites (you'll read that in II Kings, the 24th Chapter and the 2nd verse) and who cruelly harrassed the