

Appendix L

THE MESSAGE AND PURPOSE OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

THE PRIMARY THEME

The primary theme of the Book of Daniel is the revelation of Israel's future in relation to the Gentile kingdoms (now that the nation has gone into exile in Babylon), and God's exaltation of Daniel as a channel of revealing His will.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

The primary purpose is to establish that God is sovereignly in control of the nations under whom Israel is being disciplined and that Israel will ultimately be restored and blessed in Messiah's kingdom after she has first undergone tribulation and sufferings imposed by the Antichrist.

SECONDARY PURPOSES OF THE BOOK

1. To portray Daniel's personal dedication to God. This would have been a good example to the other deportees of how to live in a pagan society.
2. To portray through Daniel's example the mighty power of prayer.
3. To emphasize God's sovereign authority over Gentile nations, and how He establishes and deposes kings and empires to serve His purposes.
4. To give an example of God's faithfulness to His covenant people, even in times of discipline.
5. To outline graphically the prophetic period known as "the times of the Gentiles" (cf. Lk 21:24). The book traces the course of Gentile powers during the period in which Israel was and is being disciplined by Gentiles.

Dr. Pentecost elaborates,

"Daniel outlines the history of the times of the Gentiles and describes past and future empires that occupy Palestine and rule over Israel until the Messiah returns."¹

6. To reveal God's long range plan of redemption through Messiah, and especially to reveal Israel's future deliverance and the blessings she will enjoy in the coming Millennial Kingdom.

¹ J. Dwight Pentecost, "Daniel," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 1327.