

Attacks Against The Book of Daniel  
 Daniel is the most attacked book in the entire bible  
 more than Book of Genesis  
 more than Book of The Revelation

But WHY do the critics of the Bible find it necessary to attack this book?

TITLE DANIEL is the Author and Chief Character

AUTHOR DANIEL means GOD is My Judge

DATE Sixth Century bc ???

DANIEL	8:1	<i>In the third year of the reign of Belshazzar the king a vision appeared to me, <sup>[a]</sup>Daniel, subsequent to the one which appeared to me</i>
DANIEL	9:2	<i>in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.</i>
DANIEL	10:1-2	<i>In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a<sup>l</sup>message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; and the<sup>l</sup>message was true and one of great <sup>[a]</sup>conflict, but he understood the<sup>l</sup>message and had an understanding of the vision. In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks.</i>
DANIEL	12:4,5 and 9	<i>But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.” Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank of the river. He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.</i>

And with this date we come to one of the great critical attacks on the book the two attacks against Book of Daniel: 1. Date  
 2. Placement in the O.T.

We have seen:

Taken into captivity in 605 bc and served Cyrus 533 bc... But you should know that liberals hate this early date and date Daniel much later in history - 200 bc.

They cannot accept that **GOD CONTROLS HISTORY** and that **God Gives Prophecy** in the Old Testament that has already come true... for they fear the prophecy (*concerned with the future*) in the O.T. and N.T.

**On what grounds do the critics of the Bible base their attack of this book?**

The problem originates from the way in which the Hebrew Bible is organized in three parts  
Division of the Bible is not divided **Chronologically**, rather **Topically**.

TORAH OR PENTATEUCH	NEBI'IM PROPHETS	KETHUBIM WRITINGS
FIRST FIVE BOOKS, <u>THE PENTATEUCH</u> (BASIC INSTRUCTION OF THE O.T.) TORAH MEANS INSTRUCTION.	GIVE PROPHETIC COMMENTARY ON PAST AND FUTURE HISTORY.	WISDOM LITERATURE.  "THE WRITINGS"

*These represent the three sections of the Hebrew Bible*

**Here is the problem for the book of Daniel.**

Where is Daniel listed in the Hebrew Old Testament?

Remember, the Hebrew Bible does not have its books in the same order as in the English Bible. And neither the Hebrew order nor the English order is in chronological order.

(see O.T. flow chart)

## Where is Daniel placed?

One might think that Daniel would be in the second part because it is a prophetic book. But Daniel is not in that section *so the critic claims that this shows that Daniel was a late, or recent writing & not prophecy but history*

- (1) The liberal argues that first you had the Torah, it was written, then closed.
- (2) Then in time, the Nebi'im were written up to Malachi, written about 400 BC. Then the second part of the canon was finished.
- (3) Then they argued came the Ketubi'im. Since it was too late to be included in the second part of the canon, so then it must have been written after 400 bc.

**Therefore, they claim it was a pious forgery;** it was not written as claimed during the Babylonian period, but much later. Their arguments on the dating of Daniel are based not on historical facts but based upon their view of God and of the Bible.

Daniel must be late because its prophecies are **too detailed to be real**. Therefore it *must have been written after the fact*, in the time period of 200-165 bc during the time of the Maccabean revolt. They aren't genuine prophecies, but just made up that way. Daniel must be late because the prophecies can't be real. Their conclusions are based on a presupposition of anti-supernaturalism, that prophecy is not possible.

As to the argument based on the formation of the Hebrew Bible:  
They were classified **topically**.

There were three subject areas in the Jewish education:  
**Priests, Prophets, and Wise** men.

The Priests and Levites were trained and ordained  
to help worship in the tabernacle, Temple.  
So the first section was used by the priests for instruction, Torah.  
This is what the people were to be taught.

So this is not first because of chronology, but priority,  
it is the foundation of the rest of the Old Testament.

The Torah included a multitude of subjects from God's perspective on such things as  
origins, economics, sin, law, marriage, war, justice, capital punishment and government.

The Prophets, written early and latter, **aided** the Torah, and the nation of the people.  
These were ARRANGED BY TOPIC not time (chronologically).

The writings had an additional vital purpose,  
**to teach application of doctrine from God to the people.**

As for the Book of Daniel **PROPHECY** is not the its chief purpose;  
therefore, it is in the **WRITINGS** section of Hebrew Old Testament.

Daniel is included not with the **PROPHETS** but the **WISE**.

TO THE HEBREWS  
HE IS WRITING TO TEACH SKILL IN LIVING TO BELIEVERS.

**This is the main emphasis of the book of Daniel.**

Think as a Hebrew... as to the time in which Daniel wrote. He wrote when a Jew was taken  
out of his home land and under the rule of a foreign power. Daniel gave **wisdom** on how to  
live under these adverse circumstances. For example like Esther.

The **wisdom** that Daniel teaches is how to live a life pleasing to God while existing in a  
pagan, idolatrous time, when people were anti-Semitic. Think about this from the  
standpoint of a Jew as we go through this great book. We emphasize the prophecies, but  
to the Jews, the greater importance was how to live daily under such adverse, hostile  
circumstances.

The purpose of the book of Daniel is  
“Wisdom For Living In The KINGDOM OF MAN Until The KINGDOM OF GOD Arrives”

Or for the Jews:  
How to live under Jewish Law and Traditions while subjugated to foreign powers.

Daniel had the **GIFT** of prophet,  
but Daniel did not have the **OFFICE** of prophet;  
This is one reason he is not in the Hebrew section of the Prophets of the bible.

Jesus Christ, Himself, in the New Testament  
ascribes the prophecies of the book of Daniel to the prophet:

MATTHEW	24:15	<i>Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel <u>the prophet</u>, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)</i>
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DATE

Historically Time of the Exile of the Southern Kingdom

**Time Frame of the Book of Daniel**

605-536 bc