

In this course I'm not requiring work in the languages. We are doing this on the basis of the English, and I am discussing the original languages where they apply because we have many students who are only now beginning Hebrew. But you should know that there is that difference so that so that in chs. 2-7 we have the identical reference, in the same kind of letters, in fact these letters are written in Aramaic letters.

The Hebrew before the exile was written in a different kind of letter but they changed the type of letter during the exile and adopted the Aramaic letters but still wrote Hebrew. So we have this section of Daniel which is in Aramaic which includes about a third of the prophecies. And the prophecies from ch. 8 on are in the Hebrew language. Ch. 7 and most of ch. 2 are in Aramaic.

Now I want to mention a great attack that has been made on the book of Daniel by a neo-platonist philosopher named ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Porphyry who lived from A.D. 233-304. Porphyry said the book of Daniel claims to tell about great future events. He said, You look at the history of the time after the time of Nebuchadnezzar when Daniel was said to have lived, and you find the book traces events very, very accurately during the period of more than the fourth century(?) (unclear)

He said this is extremely unlikely that anyone would have been able to do. But he said, if somebody in a time of a great crisis in the history of Israel were to write a book to encourage their people to stand valiantly for their faith, he might imagine that someone four centuries earlier wrote a book which predicted events up to that time. And then which predicted a great attack made upon the religion of Israel by a king named Antiochus Epiphanes who ruled in Syria from 175-163 B.C. And he said, Many of the acts of Antiochus Epiphanes are very precisely (though in somewhat general terms) described in the book of Daniel just as somebody living at that time would have described them but after that, he said, it tells simply what the writer hoped would happen. So it is history up to a certain point, claims to be prophecy given four centuries earlier and then all the sudden it begins to make wonderful promises about someone coming from heaven in clouds and remedying everything, delivering them, and that's all imaginary and did not happen.

So, he said, we can see when it was written. It describes the history through that long period, accurately up to that point, and then it just imagines a lot of things that might have happened afterward. So he said, that is when the book of Daniel was written. Many today, in the last century, have followed Porphyry in this view, even some earnest Christians. Men like F.W. Farrar whose book on the life of Christ is highly regarded, but in writing on Daniel he followed Porphyry's ideas.

We think that would make the book a fraud. A book by somebody 4 centuries later claiming it was written it was written earlier, claiming it was giving history, claiming it was prophecy in advance. That would make the book a fraud. But most important we know it was accepted by the Jews at the time of Christ as being