

until the time of Josiah is the fact that some of the reforms that king put into effect were in fulfillment of the commands in this book which had been neglected during the long reign of the ungodly king, Manasseh. DeWette said that these commands were unknown before Josiah's time. However, there is no reason why they should not be part of the revelation that God gave to Moses as His desire for Israel's conduct after coming into its own land.

As early as the third century A.D., Porphyry, a vigorous opponent of Christianity, attempted to prove the book of Daniel fraudulent. In recent times many critics have adopted his view, which declares that it was not written by a prophet in the time of Nebuchadnezzar but by someone who lived in the time of the Maccabees, about 400 years later, and that its many predictions of events during those 400 years were actually references to past history under the pretense of prediction in order to lead readers to think that the writer's guesses about the future would also be fulfilled. Such a theory clearly considers the book of Daniel as a complete fraud. It does not simply put it in the category of such apocryphal books as the so-called books of Baruch, Enoch, the Fourth Esdras and the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs, where interpreters agree that an unknown writer took the name of an ancient worthy in order to give authority to his book. The claim that Daniel was written in the time of the Maccabees goes far beyond this, for it says that the writer pretended to have predicted in advance events that had already occurred.

Unless one believes in a God who can predict the future it would be quite impossible to accept the many detailed predictions in the book