

history of the life of Daniel? It doesn't tell us about his birth. It doesn't tell us about his ancestry. It tells about a very important phase of his education, but then it goes on and it doesn't tell ~~us~~ much about his later life. Ch. 2 tells of a very important event where he interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream and was given a high position. Ch.3 says nothing about Daniel at all, and it is all about his three friends. There isn't much about the three friends. There is a little in ~~this~~ ^{the 1st} chapter, and this little incident in ch.3. Ch.4 tells how Daniel comes and speaks to Nebu., but the principle theme of ch.4 is Nebu. not Daniel. And in ch.5 Daniel interprets the ~~of~~ vision, but the principal subject is Belshazzar, not Daniel. Ch.6 again it is Daniel, how God delivered Daniel in the midst of persecution and difficulty under ~~the~~ Darius the Mede. But as you see, ~~as far as Daniel is concerned~~ as far as Daniel is concerned, there are some incidents in his life told. There are some important things told about him. But there is no connected presentation of his life and activity and personality, nothing of his death, nothing of his principal positions and what he did, and so on. That's quite incidental, ~~isn't it?~~ So it is not a life of Daniel that we have. It is not a connected account of the incidents in a certain part of Daniel's life. What then, what kind of a history is these first six chapters of Daniel. Well, it is not a history in the proper sense. But it is narrative. It is historical in that big broad sense. But what kind of narratives are there. ~~xxx~~ Well, the first chapter tells about Dan. and his friends refusing to eat the king's meat, and asking instead that they be allowed to use vegetables which the Babylonians would think would ^{not} give them the strength and stamina they needed. I know a good many people today who would have the same feeling. But the question isn't that they are not vegetarians, saying that it is better to eat vegetables than meat. It is that they don't want to eat the meat ~~what~~ that has been offered to idols. And they don't want to use that which is contrary to the Mosaic law. Consequently they ask to be allowed to eat these other things, and God blesses them, and they are the head of this other people who are having this education instead of suffering for this great risk they took, of not eating the meat, They were supposed to in order to fit themselves for the king's