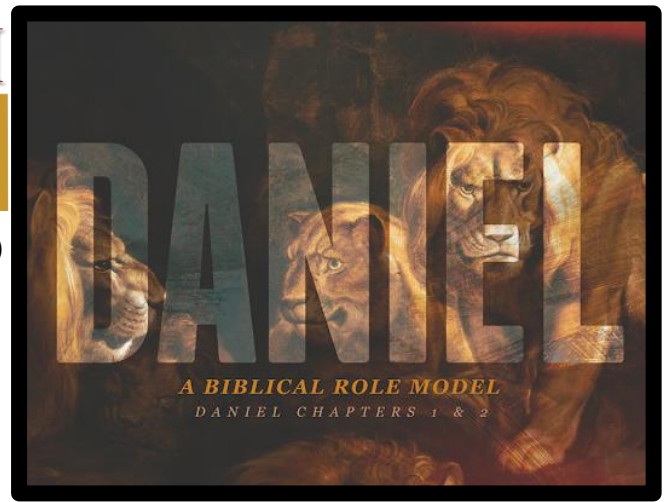


HEROES OF THE FAITH

DANIEL: Captive, But Free

28 October 2020

Chapter 1



➤ Taken Into Exile (vv. 1-7)

❖ Historical Introduction (vv. 1-7)

☐ Daniel provides historical dating for the reader. (v.1)

- Jehoiachim (609 – 598 B.C.), Judah's king, was in the third year of his reign.
- Nebuchadnezzar was in his first year of his reign (605 B.C.).
- Jehoiachim was an evil king (2 Kings 23:36-37).
- God judged Judah.
- This was the first phase of God's judgment towards Judah.
- The final phase would occur in 586 B.C.

** Rulers During Daniel's Life in Exile **		
<u>Babylon</u>	Nebuchadnezzar	605 – 562 B.C.
	Nabonidus	556 – 539 B.C.
	Co-Regent Belshazzar	550 – 539 B.C.
<u>Persia</u>	Cyrus	539 – 530 B.C.
	Darius I	522 – 486 B.C.

☐ "...vessels of the house of God." (v. 2)

- 2 Kings 20:13-19
- Isaiah prophesied to Hezekiah. God fulfills the prophecy – roughly 80 years later.

☐ Some of the royal family & Judah's nobility were taken into exile. (vv. 3-4)

- Daniel describes Nebuchadnezzar's intent with taking some of the youth. (v. 4)
- Youth: Handsome, wise, knowledgeable, discerning, & intelligent.
- Another fulfilled prophecy via Isaiah to king Hezekiah (approximately 700 B.C.).

☐ Nebuchadnezzar's plan. (vv. 5-7)

- Provide great care for students. (v. 5)
- Indoctrinate them into the Chaldean society via education – language & mythological Babylonian literature. (v. 5)
- Nebuchadnezzar sought to assimilate them into Babylonian culture.
- The king's three-year final examination.
- Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah became Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego. (vv. 6-7)
- Their new names were linked to Babylonian gods. (vv. 6-7)

LIKE JOSEPH



- Daniel: (God is my judge. / Beltshazzar – O lady {wife of the god Bel; protect the king})
- Hananiah: (Yahweh is gracious. / Shadrach – Command of Aku, the moon god.)
- Mishael: (Who is what God is? / Meshach – Who is like Aku?)
- Azariah: (Yahweh is our helper. / Abednego – Servant of the shining one, Nebo.)

➤ Daniel's faithfulness to God. (vv. 8-16)

❖ Daniel, & his three friends, resisted the cultural assimilation. (v. 8)

□ A scholarly theory.

- They avoided the luxurious diet of the king's table to protect themselves from being ensnared by the Babylonian culture's temptations.
- They used the unique diet as a way of maintaining their distinctive culture as Jews.
- This restrictive diet continually reminded them they were people of God in a foreign land, who were completely dependent upon Jehovah God for everything.

□ My views – 1) worship; &, 2) God's sovereignty.

- They believed God was sovereign. They worshiped Him. (1 Cor.10:31/1Peter 4:11)
- Faithfulness to God is a choice. Obedience to God is a clear, repeated, daily decision.
- Christians must walk by faith, especially when they can't discern what God is doing. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

❖ God gave Daniel, & his friends, favor with the chief eunuch. (vv. 9, 16; 1 Kings 8:50)

❖ The chief eunuch's concern. (v. 10) Daniel's wisdom. (vv. 11-13)

❖ The test. (vv. 12-13)

❖ The chief eunuch listened to Daniel's wisdom, and allowed the test to occur. (v. 14)

❖ At the end of the 10-day period, the results were clear. (v. 15)

❖ The chief eunuch took further action. (v. 16)

➤ God blessed the four Jewish youths. (vv. 17-21)

❖ God gave the four youths intellectual acumen, & wisdom. (v. 17)

❖ God gave Daniel the ability to interpret visions and dreams. (v. 17)

❖ At the end of three years, Nebuchadnezzar questioned all the youth. (vv. 18-19)

❖ None compared to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah. (v. 19)

❖ God blessed. These four youths were head and shoulders above the rest. (v. 20)

❖ God used Daniel's faithfulness to Him in the lives of five foreign kings. (v. 21)

➤ Principles to remember.

1. Worship is the chief end of man. Worship is life. Life is worship.
2. Radical obedience to sovereign God leads to holy living.
3. Like Daniel, & his friends, you must choose to allow God to captivate your heart and command your affection.
4. Christians must be intentional in pursuing God, as they live in a hostile world.
5. Faithfulness & obedience are choices – in freedom, or, in captivity.
6. God is looking for faithful, available, & teachable (F.A.T.) Christians...like Daniel.

