



Date: Sunday, Sept 3, 2017
Text: Daniel 1

Background History

<p>In 605 BC, after he defeated Egypt, Nebuchadnezzar — son of Nabopolassar, king of Babylon — took control of Jerusalem, and forced them to pay tribute. That same year he became king upon his father’s death. When he returned to Babylon to claim the throne he took Daniel and others back to Babylon in captivity (Dan 1:1- 6.) Jehoiakim king of Judah rebelled against Babylon, aligning with Egypt. In 597 the Babylonians took over Jerusalem, and made Zedekiah king. He also rebelled, and in 587-586 BC Nebuchadnezzar’s army returned and the city was leveled. This is the backdrop for the book of Daniel.</p> <p>It was common for the conquering army to take captives <i>back</i> to the homeland, and move other peoples <i>into</i> the land conquered –</p>	<p>to prevent a resurgence of the people. Daniel was among those taken captive back to Babylon. He may have been from a royal family (Dan 1:3.) To try to break the spirit of these young men and incorporate them into their new culture, they were given new names. Their original names had meanings related to God; their new names were related to pagan gods (see description below.)</p> <p>As one might imagine, God’s people in captivity might wonder if God was still with them, what their future held, if the promised messiah would now ever come. This book would allow God’s people, and now all mankind, to see that God is in control – <u>not the ruler</u> who for the moment appears to be powerful.</p>
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Daniel means “God is judge”; Belteshazzar means “May Bel protect his life.”
 Hananiah means “Yahweh is gracious”; Shadrach may mean “command of Aku” (the moon god.)
 Mishael means “Who is what God is?”; Meshach may mean “Who is what Aku is?”
 Azariah means “Whom Yahweh helps”; Abednego means “servant of Nebo.”



T H E M E	<p>In this book God not only tells us that <i>He is in control of who is in power</i>, but he proves it by telling who will be in power long before it happens! This book not only gives history, but is full of prophecy of future (at that time) world powers – prophecy with <i>amazing detail</i>. If this book was written when it claims to have been</p>	<p>written, then one has <u>no choice</u> but to believe that God is, and that God is in charge!</p> <p>(Because of this, those who choose not to believe in God <u>must disprove</u> this book as being written by Daniel in the 6th century BC. We will discuss some of these claims in class.)</p>
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1. This book is named after Daniel, the central character throughout the book. But who is the author of the book (see Daniel 12:4-5)?
2. What does *Jesus* call Daniel in Mt 24:15?
3. Read Ezekiel 14:14, & 28:1-3. What does this tell you about when Daniel lived? (Note: Ezekiel is being sarcastic towards the king of Tyre in the latter verse.)
4. How can you tell if a prophecy is from God? (Hint: See Deut 18:21-22, Jer 28:9.)
5. *Who* caused the Babylonian captivity, according to Daniel 1:2?
Who caused Daniel to be liked by the commander in Daniel 1:9?
6. What preparation was to be given to these choice young men (Daniel 1:4-5)?
7. What was the result that *God* gave them, from using the “academic” preparation (1:17 - 20)?
8. All of this occurred for Daniel because he “made up his mind...”(1:8) How can you apply this today?