

"God is Sovereign. Be Faithful.
Depend on Him!"

Daniel 1
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1. _____: God is Sovereign - Vs. 1-7

Vs. 1-2: In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. **And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God.** And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.

2 Kings 20:16-18: Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the Lord: Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the Lord. And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

Vs. 6-7: Among these were **Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah** of the tribe of Judah. And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

2. _____: Be Faithful - Vs. 8-16

Hebrews 11:10: For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Vs. 8: But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him **not to defile himself.**

Vs. 9: And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs...

3. _____: Depend on God! - Vs. 17-21

Vs. 17: As for these four youths, **God gave them learning and skill** in all literature and wisdom, and **Daniel had understanding** in all visions and dreams.

Jer. 29:7: But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Vs. 21: And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Isaiah 40:7-8: The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Colossians 3:1-2: If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Discussion Questions:

- When you think about world history, how do you see God's Sovereignty at work?
- Where in the New Testament do you see God scatter His people to extend His kingdom?
- Read Hebrews 12:2. How has the world tried to conform and assimilate you into its image?
- What strategy do you need to employ in your life to resist "Babylon" and be faithful to Christ?
- How has God preserved you from evil? How has He blessed you physically, mentally, and spiritually? How have you seen His sovereign grace at work in your life?
- How does Daniel 1 point to Jesus?