

## Chapter 18: Daniel in Exile



### Discussion Questions

1. Jerusalem & Judah had fallen and the Babylonians had taken captives back to train them in the ways of their conquerors.
  - a. What were the names given to the four young men by the king?
  - b. What kinds of reactions (emotionally and spiritually) would you have being uprooted from home and transplanted into a culture which you HAD to master?
  - c. How did Daniel and his three friends react?
  - d. How do you think the many others who were with them reacted?
2. What does it mean to have an aptitude for something? What were the qualities that Daniel and the three had to exhibit?
3. Food was the issue that presented Daniel with an opportunity to remain faithful or compromise:
  - a. What did he choose & why?
  - b. How did God affect this situation to bring Himself glory?
4. What is the focus of this first story in Daniel – what the boys ate or how the boys stood up for their faith, or how God showed His faithfulness?
5. What were Daniel's aptitudes in? & in his 'certification' how did the King describe the four from Judah?
6. King Nebuchadnezzar (Neb) had a dream that affected him greatly
  - a. What did he wish his wise men to do?

- b. What was their response?
  - c. What did Nebuchadnezzar say he would do then?
  - d. How did God work in this situation to bring Himself glory?
7. What was Nebuchadnezzar's dream & Daniel's God given interpretation of it?
8. "Wisdom and tact" are key elements in Daniel's words to those in authority. Have you ever had instances where God worked through you in this way?
9. What was the "one thing" that the four wise men from Judah refused to do, to remain faithful to God?
10. What was the command of Nebuchadnezzar that brought this into stark conflict?
  - a. They were the only ones to stand in the great plain and were noticed. Have you ever had the experience of "standing for what is right even if no one else is"? How did that go?
  - b. What do you think it took for them to defy the king's orders?
11. Nebuchadnezzar interrogated the trio of his best rulers and how did he try to get them to compromise their faith?
  - a. What was their response in the face of such naked rage and ultimate authority?
  - b. Why does this response of faithfulness cause such rage in the King?
  - c. Have you experienced or heard of other situations where people were given an ultimatum to bow to a false god or remain faithful?
  - d. What do we call people who sacrifice their lives for their faith in this manner?
12. God chose to rescue, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the furnace. How did He do so?
  - a. What was the visible supernatural element of this?
  - b. Who do you think was with them in the furnace?
  - c. What ways were they preserved from the heat and flames?
  - d. What was the reaction of Nebuchadnezzar?
  - e. Why do you believe these three were redeemed from their death sentence? What does this tell us about God's power and character?
13. What was the situation in Babylon surrounding the conquest of the Persians?
14. Daniel stayed influential no matter who was in charge, under the new Persian king what was Daniel's role & how was he perceived by his colleagues?

- a. What did they plot to do to Daniel and how did they get the king to go along with it?
  - b. How did Daniel respond to the attack on his faith?
  - c. Have you heard of situations where people were threatened with imprisonment or death if they continued in their Christian walk?
  - d. What is an example and what does their story inspire?
15. Why do you think Daniel continued to be open about his faith and prayers?
  16. Daniel willingly submitted to the authority of the king, even though it would mean certain death. How does this example of faithfulness to God and submission to man show people how to act in cultures that are hostile to the gospel?
  17. How did God protect Daniel & what did this do for God's reputation in Babylon?
  18. What happened to the ones who accused Daniel? Was this a fair response by the King? Why or why not?
  19. Jeremiah's promise of future salvation and return to the promised land was read and prayed for by Daniel. What is the promise and future salvation prayed for by God's followers today?
  20. Does God still call people to "defy" the expectations and norms of their culture? Yes or No? If yes, In what ways do you see this?