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Description	Image	My Notes
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Daniel 1:1-21

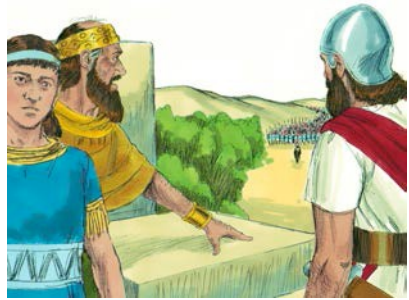
Knowing the Lord and His Word gives us hope when bad things happen.



King Josiah was gone and the new king did not follow the Lord. People immediately began following false gods and living for themselves.

But Josiah's work for God had not failed. Jeremiah was a godly man who spoke for the Lord.

1 God had warned His people that unless they turned back to Him he would allow the Babylonians to defeat them and take them away as slaves. Among those living in Jerusalem was a young man called Daniel. He was taken to become a faithful Babylonian official.



In Josiah's work to bring people to love God, there were 8 young people who loved the Lord. They got married and made 4 families and those families had 4 teenaged boys who loved the Lord. Now we'll begin to see how God used them to save God's people, Israel.

2 They ignored God's warnings and during King Jehoiakim's reign, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem.



Sometimes things happen that are sad or bad.

It gives us hope if we know that things have happened as God said they would in His Word.

People are lost and the world is going against God. So when things happen we know that it's as God said.

And although we might be sad, we know that God is with us in those things that He knew and said would happen.

Notice in this chapter that it says "God gave," three times.

God was in control. I wonder if anyone saw that?

- 3 The Babylonians entered the city without a fight. They took King Jehoiakim but brought him back to Jerusalem when he promised to obey Nebuchadnezzar.



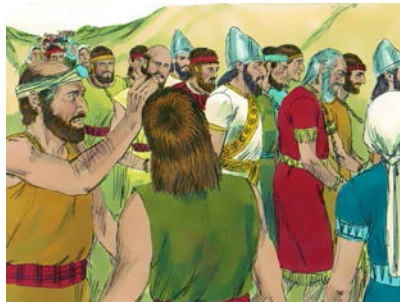
- 4 The Lord allowed the Babylonians to take the city. The victorious army took sacred objects from the Temple of God to take back to Babylon.



They thought they had won but God gave Jerusalem into their hands because Israel had sinned.

They thought their god was bigger than Israel's God. No way.

- 5 The Babylonians then took away about 6000 people to work for the King. Among those taken to Babylon were Daniel, Hananiah, Michael, and Azariah who were boys about 15 or 16 years old.



What did the boys lose? What would they never see again? Their city, their friends, their parents, their brothers or sisters.

- 6 Daniel and the Israelite prisoners were marched back to Babylon.



Neb trained people from other lands for 3 years and then sent them back to be obedient and loyal governors and officials for him. The test of loyalty is seen in chapter 3.

If they rebelled, they would be killed.

- 7 King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to select from the prisoners the very best of the young men from royal and noble families. They had to be strong, healthy, good looking and clever. Among those Ashpenaz chose were Daniel and three of his friends.



Did Daniel and Co. believe God had let this happen? Was He still with them?

How do we know God Loves us? That's right, He sent Jesus.

That never changes. How do we know Jesus loves us. Yes, He shed His precious blood for us.

That never changes.

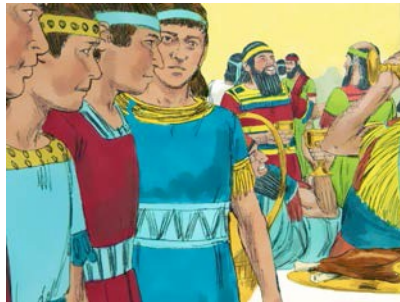
Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The four were given Babylonian names. Daniel was called Belteshazzar. Hananiah was called Shadrach. Mishael was called Meshach. Azariah was called Abednego.



What did they lose here?

Their names. Now they were named after the gods of Babylon.

- 8 These four young Jewish men were to be trained for three years in the language and literature of Babylon. They would also be given food and wine from the King's own kitchens. Daniel knew the meat being offered was offered to the gods and was not what Moses allowed. He did not want to eat meat or drink wine offered to the gods.



There were other boys there and other boys from Judah who they knew. That would have made it harder to do the right thing when others you know are doing the wrong thing.

What does it mean to compromise? Sometimes we think a little lie won't hurt, or if we steal something we need, that that's OK. We always need to honor God.

- 9 Daniel asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. The chief of staff refused: 'The king has ordered that you eat this food and wine. If you become pale and thin the king will have me beheaded.' Daniel did not give in. He spoke with the attendant, 'Test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water then compare us to the others eating the king's food.'



Not only did the boys want to obey God, they believed God was with them.

Daniel and the other 3 boys made each other strong and decided to trust God and not eat the food given to them.

They didn't rebel. They trusted that God would hear their prayers.

When things go bad around us, rather than rebel, we need to understand that the Lord is with us and to pray and ask Him for a plan.

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- 10 So for ten days Daniel and his three friends were fed vegetables and water while the others ate the King's food and drank wine. At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the rest so they were allowed to continue on their diet.



God was with them and helped them.

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- 11 God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. At the end of their training they were presented to King Nebuchadnezzar. No one impressed the King as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered the royal service. The king found them ten times more capable than any of his wise men.



God was with them and helped them again.

We need to want to honor the Lord in everything, to not compromise in obeying Him, and use all that He gives us in serving Him.

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