



L2L54: Daniel Taken Captive

Daniel 1-2

The nation of Judah refused to repent of their sins, so God allowed the Jews to be carried away as captives to Babylon. Some of the first to be taken to Babylon were noblemen and their families; Daniel was most likely taken captive with this group. When they arrived in Babylon, Daniel was selected to be among the young men who would be taught the language, literature, and culture of the Babylonians.

Even though he was a captive, Daniel was determined to live according to God's laws which were certainly not practiced by the Babylonians. The first test came when Daniel's first plate of food was set before him.

Discuss:

- Who was the king of Babylon when Daniel was taken captive?
- Why do you think Daniel did not want to eat the king's delicacies? What did Daniel propose that he eat instead? Has there ever been a time when you have had to courageously stand up for your desire to follow God?
- What position did King Nebuchadnezzar give to Daniel? How did he get the position? What can we learn from this in relation to Proverbs 22:29?
- When the astrologers and magicians could not reveal to the king his dream, what did the king command be done to all the wise men? What did Daniel do when he heard about the proclamation?
- Who revealed to Daniel the dream and its meaning? What is important about Nebuchadnezzar's dream?



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Memory Challenge:

Daniel 2:20-22

Daniel answered and said:

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.

And He changes the times and the seasons;

He removes kings and raises up kings;

He gives wisdom to the wise

And knowledge to those who have understanding.

He reveals deep and secret things;

He knows what is in the darkness,

And light dwells with Him.”



L2L55: The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3

Daniel's friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego (Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah) were given positions outside the palace in the province of Babylon. One day, the King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, decided to set up a huge golden statue. The height of it was 60 cubits--about as tall as an 8-story building! Nebuchadnezzar commanded that everyone worship the statue when they heard the music playing in its honor, or they would be put to death. Of course Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego had no intention of bowing to idols. The trouble began when some of the Chaldeans found out and reported them to the king.

Discuss:

- Which Commandment forbids worshipping idols?
- In what way did Nebuchadnezzar decide a person be put to death if they did not worship the golden image?
- What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego say when the king gave them one more chance to bow down and worship the idol?
- Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego know for sure that God would deliver them? In what ways did they have to show courage?
- What happened to the men who threw the three men into the fiery furnace?
- When the king looked into the furnace, he saw four men. Who was the fourth one that the king saw?
- What happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego after they had been thrown into the furnace?
- What did King Nebuchadnezzar do after Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego walked out of the fire?



Artist: Celia Pringle – Charlotte, NC Congregation

Memory Challenge:

Daniel 3:16-18

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."



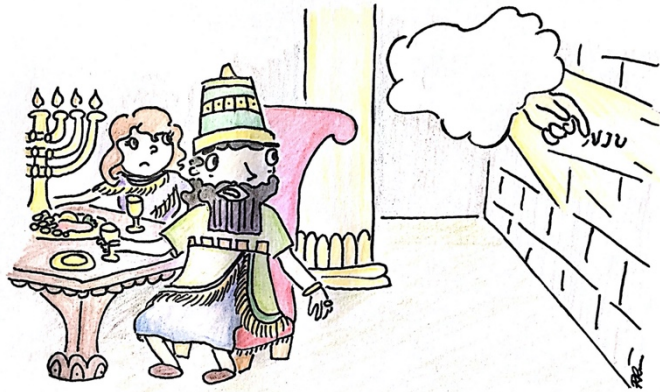
L2L56: The Handwriting on the Wall

Daniel 4-5

King Nebuchadnezzar had a rich kingdom that dominated much of the world in its time, and he was proud of it. He became so filled with pride that God warned him through a dream that he was going to be greatly humbled. Just as Daniel interpreted, for seven years Nebuchadnezzar lived like an animal. When he finally came to his senses, he acknowledged that God was sovereign over all. After Nebuchadnezzar died, Belshazzar became king of Babylon. Belshazzar did not learn anything from Nebuchadnezzar's mistake. You could say that the handwriting was on the wall.

Discuss:

- What happened to Nebuchadnezzar after he became filled with pride? Do you think Nebuchadnezzar learned anything from this experience?
- What did Belshazzar do that was considered a prideful act against God? From what example should he have learned about the consequences of pride?
- How did God get everyone's attention? Can you imagine how frightened people must have been?
- What did the writing on the wall say? What did Daniel explain its meaning to be? Today, what does the expression "the handwriting is on the wall" mean?
- How long did it take for God's warning to become true? Who ruled Babylon after Belshazzar?



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Memory Challenge:

Daniel 4:34

And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation.



L2L57: Daniel and the Lions' Den

Daniel 6

Babylon was captured by the Medes the very night that Daniel interpreted the handwriting on the wall. The new King Darius appointed one hundred twenty satraps (princes) over the provinces of his empire and three governors over them. One of the governors over the satraps was Daniel. Daniel did so well at his job that the king thought about making him the leader over the whole realm. The other governors and satraps were not happy about this idea. They wanted to find something that Daniel was doing wrong, but they couldn't find anything that would be a reason to fire him from his job. They needed to come up with a plan to get rid of Daniel.

Discuss:

- Why do you think the other government officials wanted to take action against Daniel? Why was it hard for them to find anything wrong with Daniel?
- What was the scheme the men came up with to get rid of Daniel. How did the satraps and governors get the king to sign their new decree?
- What did Daniel do when he heard about the new law? What character traits can we learn from Daniel's decision?
- Why could the king not pardon Daniel when the officials wanted him punished for praying to God? How did the king feel he found out what his officials were up to?
- What was Daniel's punishment? How did God protect Daniel? How did the king respond to the miracle?
- What happened to the officials who accused Daniel?



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Memory Challenge:

Daniel 6:25-27

Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end. He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.