

Living for the Lord in a Pagan Society

Daniel 1

Part 1

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of Daniel we are going to step into Daniel 1 and begin to look at the text. There is however more background that we need to consider and this we will see in 1:1. Last week I had mentioned something that I want to revisit just for a moment just to give some clarity. I made the statement that Daniel ministered in the palace and Ezekiel ministered among the common people and they may have not known each other. Daniel is mentioned in Ezekiel but there is no evidence that they knew one another.

Ezekiel 14:12-14

¹² *The word of the LORD came again to me, saying,*

¹³ *Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it:*

¹⁴ *Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.*

Ezekiel 28:1-3

The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

² *Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:*

³ *Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee:*

➤ **The First Deportation**

Notice Daniel 1:1-3

This was the first of 3 deportations in which the Jews were carried off to Babylon.

- ✓ First deportation 605 BC
- ✓ Second deportation 597 BC

✓ Third deportation 586 BC

The first deportation was when David and his friends were deported. The second deportation included about 10,000 Jews and Ezekiel was in this group. The third deportation took place 19 years after the first one and this was very significant because it happened when Zedekiah was the king.

Jeremiah 39:1-10

In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and all his army against Jerusalem, and they besieged it.

² And in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, the city was broken up.

³ And all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate, even Nergalsharezer, Samgarnebo, Sarsechim, Rabсарis, Nergalsharezer, Rabmag, with all the residue of the princes of the king of Babylon.

⁴ And it came to pass, that when Zedekiah the king of Judah saw them, and all the men of war, then they fled, and went forth out of the city by night, by the way of the king's garden, by the gate betwixt the two walls: and he went out the way of the plain.

⁵ But the Chaldeans' army pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho: and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he gave judgment upon him.

⁶ Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah.

⁷ Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon.

⁸ And the Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem.

⁹ Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon the remnant of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to him, with the rest of the people that remained.

¹⁰ But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left of the poor of the people, which had nothing, in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.

Zedekiah was the last king to sit upon the throne of David. When Zedekiah was removed this started the Times of the Gentiles and from this time forward there would not be another king sitting upon David's throne until Jesus Christ does in the Kingdom.

Notice Daniel 1:1-2 again.

Here in verse 2, we see that the LORD GAVE Jehoiakim into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel wants us to know that this was God's judgment upon the southern kingdom. Now we can be sure that this invasion founds its beginning in the minds of Nabopolassar and his son Nebuchadnezzar but Daniel makes it very clear that it was the sovereignty of God that was working in the entire invasion. This captivity was exactly what God had warned the nation about in the Mosaic Law.

Deuteronomy 28:47-52

⁴⁷ Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

⁴⁸ Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

⁴⁹ The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

⁵⁰ A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

⁵¹ And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee.

⁵² And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.

Let us notice how this was fulfilled.

2 Chronicles 36:17

¹⁷ Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

There were two reasons why Judah experienced the captivity. One was idolatry.

2 Kings 22:16-17

¹⁶ Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read:

¹⁷ Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched.

The second reason had to do with the Sabbath years.

Leviticus 25:1-4, 20-22

And the LORD spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying,

² Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD.

³ Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof;

⁴ But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.

²⁰ And if ye shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? behold, we shall not sow, nor gather in our increase:

²¹ Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years.

²² And ye shall sow the eighth year, and eat yet of old fruit until the ninth year; until her fruits come in ye shall eat of the old store.

Judah was much like we are and they lacked faith and decided to farm the land in the Sabbath year. God had warned them what would happen if they did this.

Leviticus 26:33-34

³³ *And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.*

³⁴ *Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths.*

Judah had allowed 70 Sabbaths to pass by without letting the land have her rest and therefore God would make sure the land would receive the rest.

2 Chronicles 36:17-21

¹⁷ *Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.*

¹⁸ *And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon.*

¹⁹ *And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.*

²⁰ *And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:*

²¹ *To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.*

Judah had been shown grace for a period of 490 years. The Sabbath year was every 7th year, and they violated 70 of them so 70 X 7 was their grace period. That should take our mind to what Jesus said.

Matthew 18:21-22

²¹ *Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?*

²² *Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.*

Conclusion:

God had forgiven Judah 490 years but now they would experience the consequences. He had sent the prophets with many warnings of what they would experience but they refused to repent. Therefore, God would speak to them through a foreign nation that spoke a foreign language, and He would speak to them through pain, and the captivity would be very painful.