

Living for the Lord in a Pagan Society

Daniel 1

Part 2

Introduction: Last week in our study of Daniel we looked at why Judah went into the captivity, and we looked at why the captivity was 70 years long. Judah had turned from God to idolatry, and they had ignored God's commands concerning the Sabbath year. Every 7th year was to be a Sabbath year in which they were not to farm the land. God would give them extra in the 6th year to cover the next 3 years. But the Jews lacked faith, and they saw an opportunity to make money by growing crops and selling to those who did walk in obedience and practice the Sabbath years. They then allowed 70 Sabbaths to pass by which was a time period of 490 years (70 X 7). Therefore, God would send them into captivity for 70 years so that the land would receive its rest as God intended.

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.*

Notice Daniel 1:1-2a

We also considered how God gave Jehoiakim into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar. This invasion may have been planned in the mind of Nebuchadnezzar and his father but ultimately it was God who placed the thoughts in their minds and allowed them to invade Jerusalem.

➤ **The First Deportation**

Part 2

Notice Daniel 1:1-2 again.

In verse 1 we are told that this invasion started in the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim. This then looks to present a problem.

Jeremiah 25:1

The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon;

How then are we to understand the differences here?

In Daniel 1:1 the writer uses the Babylonian system for dating the reign of a king and not the Jewish system which was used by Jeremiah. In the Babylonian system of dating the reign of a king, the first year of his reign was not counted, whereas it was counted in the Jewish system. Therefore, there is no contradiction as the critics say there is.

Notice Daniel 1:2 again.

There are several points here to see. We are told that Jehoiakim was given into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar. But what we do not see is that it was Nebuchadnezzar's desire to take him to Babylon.

2 Chronicles 36:5-6

⁵ *Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God.*

⁶ *Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon.*

There is however no record of Jehoiakim being carried off to Babylon. God had other plans, and it was because of his sin.

Jeremiah 22:18-19

¹⁸ *Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah; They shall not lament for him, saying, Ah my brother! or, Ah sister! they shall not lament for him, saying, Ah lord! or, Ah his glory!*

¹⁹ *He shall be buried with the burial of an ass, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem.*

In Jeremiah 36 we see the consequences of his sin.

Jeremiah 36:28-31

²⁸ Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned.

²⁹ And thou shalt say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, Thus saith the LORD; Thou hast burned this roll, saying, Why hast thou written therein, saying, The king of Babylon shall certainly come and destroy this land, and shall cause to cease from thence man and beast?

³⁰ Therefore thus saith the LORD of Jehoiakim king of Judah; He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David: and his dead body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost.

³¹ And I will punish him and his seed and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring upon them, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and upon the men of Judah, all the evil that I have pronounced against them; but they hearkened not.

When Jehoiakim burned the roll that contained the Word of God he crossed the line.

Proverbs 29:1

He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Notice Daniel 1:2 again.

I want to direct your attention to the word "Shinar" because the Holy Spirit inspires David to use this for a reason. In verse 1 the word "Babylon" is the same word translated "Babel" in Genesis 10. The Holy Spirit uses these titles because He wants us to make the connection back to the Tower of Babel. To make it very clear we are to see Babylon here as the center for man's kingdom and Jerusalem as the center of God's Kingdom. So, what we shall see as we go deeper into this chapter is exactly what the kingdom of man/the world desires to do to the children of God. The kingdom of man wants to brain wash us and have us forget who we are in Jesus Christ. Daniel and his friends will be carried to Babylon where there will be an attempt to make them Babylonians. This is exactly the desire of our enemy Satan. He wants to make us like the world so that we will have no influence for our Lord.

Notice Daniel 1:2 again.

Let us also pay very close attention to the fact that Nebuchadnezzar took only part of the vessels from the house of God. Why did he not take them all? It seems as though it was not his intent to overthrow Jerusalem at this time but to subjugate or to rule over the

city and those who remained would be able to continue their service to their God. The vessels that he did take was proof in his mind that his god was superior to the God of the Jews. It is interesting that in each of the 3 deportations there were vessels taken. We see this in the 2nd deportation.

2 Chronicles 36:9-10

⁹ Jehoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem; and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

¹⁰ And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.

We see it in the final deportation also.

2 Kings 25:2, 12-15

² And the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah.

¹² But the captain of the guard left of the poor of the land to be vinedressers and husbandmen.

¹³ And the pillars of brass that were in the house of the LORD, and the bases, and the brasen sea that was in the house of the LORD, did the Chaldees break in pieces, and carried the brass of them to Babylon.

¹⁴ And the pots, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and the spoons, and all the vessels of brass wherewith they ministered, took they away.

¹⁵ And the firepans, and the bowls, and such things as were of gold, in gold, and of silver, in silver, the captain of the guard took away.

Now the interesting thing is that Nebuchadnezzar was actually fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah that had been given 80-100 years earlier.

Isaiah 39:1-7

At that time Merodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that he had been sick, and was recovered.

² And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.

³ Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country unto me, even from Babylon.

⁴ Then said he, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All that is in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.

⁵ Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts:

⁶ Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.

⁷ And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar was permitted to take the vessels, and he believed that this proved his god was greater than the God of Judah that is why he placed them in the treasure house of his god. God allowed this to speak to the Jews. It was a statement to them that God was permitting these Babylonians to have power over them. The Babylonians were permitted to take the vessels but when they were desecrated God's judgment fell.

Daniel 5:1-5

Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

² *Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.*

³ *Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.*

⁴ They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

⁵ In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

It was in Daniel 5 that the handwriting on the wall happened and in the next chapter the Babylonians are overthrown.

God had promised that the vessels would be brought back to Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 27:21-22

²¹ Yea, thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the vessels that remain in the house of the LORD, and in the house of the king of Judah and of Jerusalem;

²² They shall be carried to Babylon, and there shall they be until the day that I visit them, saith the LORD; then will I bring them up, and restore them to this place.

These vessels were returned when Cyrus sent the Jews back to Jerusalem.

Ezra 1:7-11

⁷ Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods;

⁸ Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

⁹ And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives,

¹⁰ Thirty basons of gold, silver basons of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand.

¹¹ All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem.

Conclusion:

Lessons from our study.

1. God is sovereign over the kings of the earth.

Nebuchadnezzar planned to carry Jehoiakim off to Babylon, but God somehow changed his mind and used Nebuchadnezzar as an instrument of judgment.

2. Satan and his world system will do anything in an attempt to make us forget who we are in Jesus Christ.

3. God allows His vessels to be moved but never lost.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

⁶ For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.