

# PART I CONFIDENT & FAITHFUL

## A FAMILIAR STORY WITH A CRUCIAL PURPOSE

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**Thou will keep him in perfect peace,  
whose mind is stayed on thee, because  
he trusteth in thee.** (Isaiah 26:3) KJV

In the midst of Babylonian captivity, Daniel and his three friends found solace and success. **Why?** What was so special about these men that caused them to be favored in the sight of King Nebuchadnezzar? During the duration of Judah's captivity, the faith of Daniel and his three friends was tested to the extreme.

While living with the conqueror, Daniel continuously portrayed a prayer filled life

that was devoid of worldliness i.e. lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life. While in Babylon, Daniel was accompanied by three likeminded friends.

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah served and had great confidence in the awesomeness of the One True and Living God. Their outstanding confidence netted them safety in the midst of captivity by a fierce world power. **These three men were willing to glorify The One True and Living God** by refusing to succumb to idolatry; or give praise and worship to idols created from the hands of man. Also, they fully remembered the blessings and curses of the Law.

**Question:** If Daniel and his three friends were righteous men, what could have previously happened to Judah [southern kingdom of Israel] that resulted in captivity?

## WHO WAS DANIEL?

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And the king [Nebuchadnezzar] spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; Children in whom *was* no blemish, but well favoured, and skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans. **And the king**

**appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.**

**Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:** Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names, for he gave unto Daniel **the name** of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego (Daniel 1:3-7) KJV

## BRIEF HISTORY OF ISRAEL

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David became king (Saul was the first king) of Israel, and after his reign, his son Solomon was king. **After Solomon's death, the kingdom of Israel was split into the northern and southern areas.** The northern area was comprised of 10 tribes, and the northern area was comprised of two tribes.

The northern tribes were ruthlessly seized by an Assyrian world power and dispersed into various parts of the known world. The southern kingdom had been spared as a remnant. Because of idolatry and immorality, the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel were besieged by their enemies. Daniel and his friends were from Judah a tribe of the southern

kingdom, which was now overwhelmed with besiegement, by the king of Babylon.

**The king of Babylon had asked for the choicest young men from the royal family. Nebuchadnezzar's plan was to train Daniel and other young men in the arts, sciences and languages of the Babylonian culture, and to place them in positions that would benefit him and the kingdom of Babylon (see Daniel 1:3-4)**

While living in Babylon, **Daniel never forgot about his God who is the One True and Living God, Yahweh** and refused the temptations of trendy idolatrous behavior. **Question: What kept Daniel alert and prosperous during Israel's time of judgment?**

## **SELF-DENIAL**

**And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank:** so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

**But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank:** therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself (Daniel 1:8) KJV

Daniel was well versed with the Commandments, statutes and ordinances; and was greatly concerned with unclean food and food offered to idols (Leviticus 11 & 17) being offered to him and other young men.



Instead of eating the lusciously rich and appetizing food, and guzzling down big glasses of the king's wine, Daniel purposed in his heart to eat pulse (vegetables) and to drink water only. Daniel's friends purposed to do the same (all their names were changed, see Daniel 1:7)

The fore mentioned scriptural passage states that Daniel **PURPOSED** in his **HEART** that he would not **DEFILE** himself. Because of Daniel's adamant decision to **refuse the king's meats**, he was given favor from the One True and Living God. In the mean while, the prince of the eunuchs was distressed at their refusal to partake in the king's delicacies.

The eunuch was worried about Daniel endangering his head to the king (Daniel 1:10) KJV However, the four young men convinced the eunuch to give them 10 days to eat pulse/vegetables and water to drink.



The eunuch did not want the young captors to appear malnourished, so 10 days would be a suitable timeframe to keep the young men from appearing malnourished.

## **WILLING AND OBEDIENT**

Daniel and his three friends were willing and obedient. (Isaiah 1:19). They were willing to remain faithful to Yahweh their God, and obedient by denouncing defilement in the form of the king's foods.

## **Part II Confident & Faithful**



## HISTORICAL REVIEW

### WHAT LEAD TO THE BESIEGEMENT OF JUDAH?

#### Why had Judah been conquered?

Judah had either forgotten about what led to the dispersion of the 10 tribes of Israel, or had allowed their minds to become disillusioned regarding the Covenant with the LORD their God. Previously, 10 of the 12 tribes, located in the northern area of Israel had been taken by a ruthless and contemptuous Assyrian king. The uprooting of the 10 tribes was so complete, that the tribes were displaced to unknown locations and became known as the “lost tribes of Israel.” To add to confusion and chaos, the Assyrian king planted a different nation

of people where the 10 tribes had once been.

Only Judah and a small portion of another tribe remained within Israel. Perhaps Judah and the remaining tribe felt as if all was well, and continuously practiced idolatrous traditions with human sacrifices. (Jeremiah 19:5 & 32:35) The above sacrificial practices were strictly forbidden. **Because of idolatrous behavior, the curses of the Law [Torah] were eminent.**

#### Consider the following scriptural passage:

But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: **(Deuteronomy 28:15) KJV (See Deuteronomy 28 for a complete list of curses.**

.... **The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.** (Deuteronomy 28:25) KJV

### QUESTIONS

How long would the Jews be in captivity by the Babylonians, and will

the Babylonians be punished?  
**Captivity would last for 70 years.**

And it shall come to pass, when **seventy years** are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations. (Jeremiah 25:12)

Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the **Chaldeans**: for thou shalt no more be called, the lady of kingdoms. (Isaiah 47:5) KJV

**Was there a warning regarding the Babylonians? If so, by whom and for how long?**

The Jews were given ample opportunity to turn from their wicked behavior by heeding the words of divinely inspired prophets such as Isaiah and Jeremiah. For several years, Isaiah prophesied (possibly over 60 yrs.) warning Israel, Judah to repent! Jeremiah’s prophetic messages occurred about a 100 years after Isaiah, and Jeremiah preached for more than 40 years.

The LORD God sent His prophet Jeremiah to cause the Jews to hear “what thus saith the LORD” and to repent and turn from their wicked ways. However, **Jeremiah’s prophetic messages and warnings fell on hardened hearts and deaf ears.**

**Because of Jeremiah’s prophetic charge,** his very life was threatened. Just as Daniel



purposed within his heart to remain righteous in the eyes of the LORD, **Jeremiah purposed within his heart to persevere and remain faithful to his charge, and spoke the Word of the LORD with faithfulness.** (Jeremiah 23:28) KJV

## BRIEF REVIEW

1. An original ancient ruler of Assyria was Nimrod a grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:8-10)
2. Assyria had several kings. Timeframe of Assyrian domination 900-614 B.C.
3. Babylon was world power # 3 [Egypt, Assyria, Babylon]. Daniel and other Jews were taken captive into Babylon around 605 B.C.
4. Babylon was located in the southern Mesopotamian area, which today is south east Iraq.

## WARNING COMES BEFORE DESTRUCTION & A HAUGHTY SPIRIT BEFORE A FALL

## GOD'S JUDGMENT/JEREMIAH PROPHECIES

As a fountain casteth out her waters, so she casteth out her wickedness: **violence**

**and spoil is heard in her; before me continually is grief and wounds.**

**Be thou instructed, O Jerusalem, lest my soul depart from thee; lest I make thee desolate, a land not inhabited.**

**Thus saith the LORD of Hosts, they shall thoroughly glean the remnant of Israel as a vine: turn back thine hand as a grape gatherer into the baskets.**

**To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? Behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.**

**Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with him that is full of days.**

And their houses shall be turned unto others, with their fields and wives together: for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD.

**For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.**

They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, **saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.**

**Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.**

**Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein.**

**Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said we will not hearken.** Consider Jeremiah 6:7-29

**....Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the LORD hath rejected them. (Jeremiah 6:30) KJV**



## CONFIDENT & FAITHFUL PART III

### CHOSEN ABOVE ALL OTHERS

Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. **Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee**, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days. **And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.**

Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse. **As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom:** and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: **therefore stood they before the king.** And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, **he found them ten times better** than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm. (Daniel 1:12-20) KJV

**Note:** The key component within the above passage is the usage of self-denial to refrain from defilement.

### AN UNREASONABLE AND DIFFICULT REQUEST

....Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, **for to show the king his**

**dreams. So they came and stood before the king.**

And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream. Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: **tell thy servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation.**

The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, **The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.** But if ye show the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore show me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.



They answered again and said, let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will

show the interpretation of it. **The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.** But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore **tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can show me the interpretation thereof.**

**Note: The king was demanding an unreasonable and difficult request. He was asking them to state his dream and to interpret same.**

The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, **there is not a man upon the earth that can show the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.**

And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can show it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

**For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.**

**And the decree went forth** that the wise men should be slain; and **they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.**

The wise men of Babylon were trying to reason with an unreasonable king. In order for them to interpret the king's dream, he would need to disclose the dream to them. Of course, there answer was met with anger and rage. King Nebuchadnezzar ordered that **ALL** wise men i.e. magicians, astrologers be instantly destroyed. **ALL included Daniel and his friends. (Daniel 2:1-13) KJV**

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### **HOW DID DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS ESCAPE THE KING'S UNMERCIFUL DECREE**

Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, **why is the decree so hasty from the king?** Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. **Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would show the king the interpretation.**

**Note: Daniel is very confident in His God, to go before the king, after such a merciless edict.**

Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: **That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret;** that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. **Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. (Daniel 2:14-19) KJV**



First of all, Daniel did not panic, **but inquired from the captain of the king's guard.** He did not waste time inquiring from surviving wise men. The king's fatal decree was already being implemented and he didn't need to place himself within a fearful state of mind. Daniel needed reliable information regarding the decree; notice that **Daniel utilized wisdom as he spoke** with the captain of the king's guard.

Next, Daniel did not wander around from house to house making further inquiries. Daniel went to his house. It was time to go home and tell his friends **and pray to the LORD their God.** As a result of leaning not upon their understanding, the four men acknowledged the LORD God. (Proverbs 3:6) KJV

After which, the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision and Daniel **BLESSED** the LORD. (Daniel 2:19).

## DANIEL BLESSED THE LORD

Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the Name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are His. And He changeth the times and the seasons. He removeth kings, and setteth up kings. He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.

**He revealeth the deep and secret things. He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him.**

**I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made**

**known unto us the king's matter.** (Daniel 2:20-23).



Later, Arioch the king's captain allowed Daniel to come in before the king, to present Nebuchadnezzar's dream vision. Daniel made it very clear that the magicians, astrologers, wise men and soothsayers could not make known the king's dream, **BUT, THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN THAT REVEALETH SECRETS, AND MAKETH KNOWN TO THE KING WHAT SHALL BE IN THE LATTER DAYS.** (Daniel 2:28) KJV

Daniel also made it very clear that the secret was not revealed to him because of his wisdom. (Daniel 2:30).

**Daniel went on to reveal the present, future and the ultimate Messianic kingdom.**

- Presently, the images gold head symbolized Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom.
- The breast and arms of the image were silver representing the Medo-Persian empire, and would become the next world power.
- The belly and thighs were brass, and symbolized the Greek empire.
- The images legs were of iron representing the Roman empire
- .The images feet were part iron and part clay representing an unknown world power for the latter day.
- The rock that was hewn without hands from a mountain and broke the feet of the statue and caused the broken pieces to be scattered into oblivion, represented Christ's kingdom that will never end. (Daniel 2:31-45) KJV

Nebuchadnezzar proclaimed that Daniel's God was a God of gods, and a Lord of kings and a revealer of secrets. (Daniel 2:47) **Daniel was given great honor and a prestigious position within the king's kingdom.** Daniel was made chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.



However, Daniel was not selfish, and did not forget his friends. Daniel requested, and the king set Shadrach, Meshach and Abed- nego over provincial affairs.

## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of \_\_\_\_\_ and its height and width was \_\_\_\_\_.

Could it be possible, that King Nebuchadnezzar designed the golden image in response to the interpretation of his dream, regarding the golden headed image \_\_\_\_\_?

What were the names of the musical instruments to be played?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What were the people supposed to do after hearing the instruments \_\_\_\_\_?

Who are the participants in chapter 3

\_\_\_\_\_ was Daniel in the midst \_\_\_\_\_?

What was to be the punishment for non – compliance to the king’s decree in chapter 3

\_\_\_\_\_

We \_\_\_\_\_ to answer thee (chapter 3)

What two verses within chapter 3 are in non-compliance of the king’s idolatrous decree \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?

What was going to be the punishment for those who declared defiance \_\_\_\_\_ and what added to the terror of the punishment \_\_\_\_\_?

What happened to the strong men who attempted to carry out the sentence \_\_\_\_\_?

Briefly write about the awesome good news of chapter 3

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What are the crucial elements of this study?

What did Daniel and his friend portray \_\_\_\_\_?

In the midst of \_\_\_\_\_, Daniel and his friends never forgot about \_\_\_\_\_, and did not succumb to \_\_\_\_\_?

How many years was the exile in Babylon \_\_\_\_\_?

What other incident in chapter 6 challenged Daniel’s confidence and faith in the LORD God \_\_\_\_\_?

Who earlier served as prophetic messengers for the LORD to ward off the exile \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?

What did Nebuchadnezzar learn about the LORD God and what mysterious incident in chapter 7 brought about this wholehearted new view \_\_\_\_\_?

What was Nebuchadnezzar’s statement in chapter 5 verse 37

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?



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## Something to Ponder

What is this study telling the populous of the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Certainly God does not change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever more.

Again, we are living in grace time, and grace time is not a license to continue to live in sin. All unrighteous is sin. I John 5:17 We are to present our bodies as living sacrifices, and be ready when Yahushua ha Mashiach returns.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.**

**And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Romans 12:1-2) KJ