

## Daniel the Prophet

Little Daniel, a fifteen year old kid is captured and taken to Babylon. He spends the rest of his life there. He is a prophet of God. The first 6 chapters of Daniel are history with some prophecy mixed in. The second 6 chapters are prophetic with some history mixed in. Daniel is a book of incredibly detailed prophecy--some of which has already occurred and some which has yet to happen.

## God is in Charge

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon took the people of Jerusalem captive and carried them away to Babylon. Daniel was among those taken captive. God sets up Daniel as a bright, contrasting example among the pagan religions of Babylon. Daniel and four of his contemporaries were given new names--they were being stripped of their most personal thing, their name. This was done in order to conform them to the pagan religions in Babylon. But Daniel and his friends purposed in their heart to not defile themselves. Although they faced fatal persecution for their religious beliefs and practices, God did not allow them to be harmed.

### *Discussion Questions:*

- a. What is the important event that happened in 605 BC?
- b. Why did God allow His people to be taken into Babylonian captivity?
- c. Although the Babylonians attack and capture God's people, who is in charge?
- d. Examine your heart: Have you ever questioned God's love when going through a difficult time? Is there a difficult situation that you can look back on and see the good that shows God's hand? Do you firmly believe that God is in charge of your life?
- e. What did Nebuchadnezzar dream that troubled him so much that he could not sleep?
- f. To whom did Nebuchadnezzar look to for counsel regarding his dream?
- g. Why did Nebuchadnezzar trust the interpretation of his dream given by Daniel?
- h. What image/idol does Nebuchadnezzar create sixteen years into the captivity? What material does he create it out of and why?
- i. What stand does Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego take against Nebuchadnezzar and his idol?
- j. Nebuchadnezzar has a dream of a tall tree. What is the interpretation Daniel gives to the dream?
- k. A voice speaks to Nebuchadnezzar from heaven; what is said?
- l. What important event happened in 539 BC?
- m. Who is Belshazzar? What terrible thing does he do in his drunken stupor?
- n. A hand writes on the wall and everyone sobers up real quick. What was written on the wall?
- o. What interpretation does Daniel give to the writing?
- p. What law was passed in order to trap Daniel?
- q. Why was Daniel thrown into a den of Lions? How did he miraculously survive?
- r. Examine your heart: What lessons can you learn from Daniel's character and apply to your own life?