

## Daniel Part 1

- The book of Daniel is God staying true to His Word

### The Sovereignty of God

- The theme of the book called Daniel is the sovereignty of God in all things.
- “Among the persecuted believers around the world the two most favored books in the Bible are Daniel and Revelation. This is because both teach that in the end our God wins.” // Bob Stein, New Testament scholar
- “[God] uses his sovereign power to maintain his covenant promises forever. This gospel according to Daniel should give us courage against our foes, hope in our distress, and perseverance in our trials.” // Bryan Chapell

### Context of the Exile - Daniel 1:1-2

- *Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own. // Habakkuk 1:5-6*
- In 605 BC, Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem as prophesied by Jeremiah.
- The taking of items or vessels from the temple of God in Jerusalem to the temple of Babylonian gods was a way for Nebuchadnezzar to declare, “Babylonian gods are greater and better gods.”

### A Difficult Plan to Trust - Daniel 1:3-5

- *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. // Jeremiah 29:11*
- Three deportations of the people of Israel to Babylon (605, 597, 586 BC)
- In Deuteronomy 28, God promises curses upon Israel if they disobey Him and worshiped false gods: 1) Military Defeat 2) Exile/Deportation from the Promised Land

### Making Babylonians out of Jews - Daniel 1:3-5

1. **Isolation** - Daniel and others were taken by force out of their home and away from family, friends, jobs, and place of worship
2. **Indoctrination** - Daniel and his friends were ideal candidates to not only learn Chaldean/Babylondian culture, but to then teach it and pass it on
3. **Assimilation** - Daniel and his friends were forced to eat, drink, and worship like a Babylonian

### Changing Names; Changing Identities - Daniel 1:6-7

Hebrew Name	Hebrew Meaning	Babylonian Name	Babylonian Meaning
Daniel	Elohim is my judge/ruler	Beltshazzar	May Bel protect his life
Hananiah	Yahweh is gracious	Shadrach	I am under the command of Aku
Mishael	Who is like Elohim?	Meshach	Who is like Aku?
Azariah	Yahweh helps me	Abednego	I am a servant of Nego or Nebo

### Daniel Remains Faithful - Daniel 1:8-16

- Daniel goes through changes in location, job, and even his name but he does not change his faith
- The reason the exile is happening is because of the unfaithfulness of the people of Israel
- The refusal to eat the food is a refusal to participate in idol worship - Daniel is refusing to compromise his faith in Yahweh

### **A Divine Invasion - Daniel 1:17-21**

- *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. // Ephesians 6:10-13*
- *Jeremiah 29:7*