

BIBLE STUDY

THE BOOK OF DANIEL CHAPTERS 1 TO 6 & JOSEPH



1-THE BOOK OF DANIEL

WHO IS DANIEL?



WHERE IN THE BIBLE?

- Author of the book of Daniel
- Jewish, of noble birth
- One of the Major Prophets
- Exiled to Babylon in the 1st captivity
- Became a member of the Babylonian Royal service (Nebuchadnezzar's advisor)
- Remained faithful to God in a pagan land
- A man of faith, righteousness, courage, prayer, wisdom and self-control

NO COMPROMISE!

In food & worship
"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank" Daniel 1:8



DANIEL AND 3 KINGS

Daniel & His Friends

Nebuchadnezzar changed their names!

Daniel Hebrew name - *God is my judge*

Beltshazzar - *Beltis* protect the king*

Hananiah Hebrew name - *Jehovah is gracious*

Shadrach - *Aku's* command*

Mishael Hebrew name - *Who is like God*

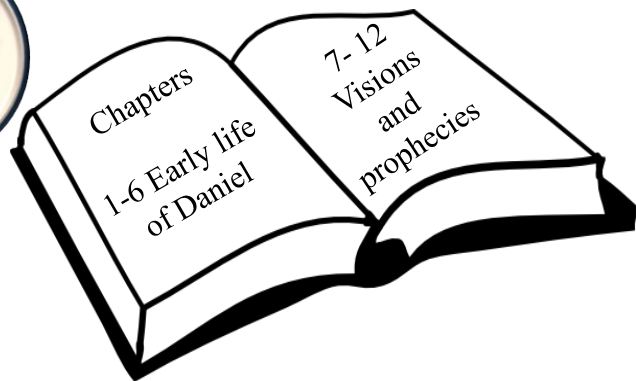
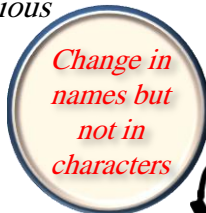
Meshach - *Who is like Aku**

Azariah Hebrew name - *Jehovah is my helper*

Abednego - *the servant of Nego**

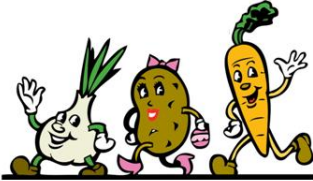
* *Beltis, Aku, Nego are all names of pagan gods*

- **Nebuchadnezzar** – a man of dreams. *During his reign* the 3 young men were thrown in the fiery furnace. Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation: "*driven from men and ate grass*"
- **Belshazzar** – *During his reign* he saw the writing on the wall and the end of the Babylonian Empire
- **Darius the Mede** - *During his reign* Daniel was thrown in the lions' den





- Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, took over the kingdom of Judah.
- Nebuchadnezzar selected some young Jews of royal blood to take to Babylon, among them were Daniel and his friends.
- He spent 3 years training them in the language and literature of Babylon, so they would serve in the royal court.
- During this time they were allocated portions of the king's food and wine but Daniel and his friends refused the royal food and wine and asked for vegetables and water instead.
- God gave them knowledge and skills, at the end of the 3 years of training, they were found ten times better than **ALL** the others.



Chapter 2 Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

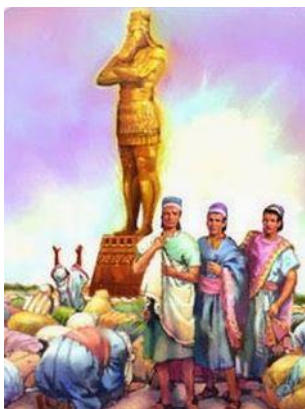
- In his second year of reign, Nebuchadnezzar was troubled by a dream.
- He asked his magicians and astrologers to interpret his dream without telling them what it was. He demanded that they **FIRST** tell him what he actually dreamt! They protested that no man can do such a thing.
- He ordered that they, and all the wise men of Babylon, be executed.
- This decree also applied to Daniel, but through the help of God, he was able to tell the king his dream and then interpret it.
- Daniel told the king that the dream talks about 4 successive kingdoms, starting with Nebuchadnezzar. **"You are the head of gold"** which will be followed by inferior kingdoms. Ultimately, they will be replaced by the everlasting **Kingdom of the God of heaven**.
- Nebuchadnezzar affirms that Daniel's God is **"the God of gods"**.
- He made Daniel chief of all the wise men and ruler over the province of Babylon.



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2)

- Gold
- Silver
- Brass
- Iron
- Iron & Clay
- Stone

Chapter 3



The image of gold and the fiery furnace

- King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image of himself and commanded that all his officials bow down before it. All who failed to do so would be thrown into a fiery furnace.
- Certain officials informed the king that the three Jewish youth: Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego*) were refusing to worship his golden statue.
- The three were brought before Nebuchadnezzar and told the king they do not fear the fire and that their God would be with them and deliver them.
- Nebuchadnezzar commanded that they be thrown into the fiery furnace, heated seven times hotter than it was usually heated.
- When the king looked inside the furnace he saw four figures walking unharmed in the flames, the fourth **"like a son of God"**.
- Seeing this, Nebuchadnezzar brought the youth out of the flames and promoted them to high office, decreeing that anyone who spoke against their God should be punished.

Saved in Fiery Trial



Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream and Madness



- Nebuchadnezzar had a 2nd dream: a huge tree was suddenly cut down at the command of a heavenly messenger.
- Daniel was called in to interpret the dream.
- He told the king that the tree is Nebuchadnezzar himself, who will lose his kingdom and for seven years will lose his mind and live like a wild beast.
- All of this came to pass and at the end of the specified time, Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that **“HEAVEN RULES”**.
- His kingdom and sanity were restored.



Chapter 5



“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven”
Daniel 4:37

King Belshazzar's Feast

- King Belshazzar, son of Nebuchadnezzar, and his nobles had a feast to praise their idols and commanded to drink in the gold and silver vessels from the holy temple of Jerusalem.
- A hand mysteriously appeared and wrote on the wall.
- No one could interpret the reading.
- The horrified king called for Daniel to help.
- Daniel rebuked him for his lack of humility before God and interpreted the message: **“Belshazzar's kingdom will come to an end and be divided - given to the Medes and Persians”**
- Belshazzar rewarded Daniel and promoted him to be the third ruler in the kingdom.
- That very night Belshazzar was killed and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom.

***MENE, MENE,
TEKEL, UPHARSIN***

Chapter 6 Daniel in the Lions' Den

- King Darius promoted Daniel to high office, making him one of 3 governors over the kingdom, which caused jealousy in the other officials.
- Knowing of Daniel's devotion to his God, his enemies tricked the king into issuing a decree forbidding worship of any other god or man, other than the king, for a 30-day period.
- Daniel continued to pray three times a day to God in his upper room, with his windows open towards Jerusalem.
- The officials informed the king, and by his own decree, he was forced to throw Daniel into the lions' den.
- God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths for Daniel.
- The next morning Darius rejoiced to find him unharmed.
- The king then gave a command that everyone must honor Daniel's God and he put Daniel's accusers into the lions' den.



2-
J
O
S
E
P
H



BIBLE STUDY – CONT.

IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE

- He was a shepherd.
- The favourite of his father, who received a special coat, made just for him, of many colours.
- His brothers hated him for this reason.
- His brothers planned to kill him but Rueben tried to rescue him and persuaded them not to.
- His brothers sold him to the caravan of Ishmaelites going to Egypt.
- His life was changed in a moment, from being the beloved son to a slave in an unknown land, **Egypt**.

IN POTIPHAR'S HOUSE

- He was a good and faithful servant.
- God was with him and made him successful.
- God blessed his master through him.
- Potiphar, his master, had entrusted him with all of his house affairs.
- He did not give in to the temptation by Potiphar's wife.
- Due to the false accusation of Potiphar's wife, he was cast into prison.
- Once again, he paid the price for being righteous!

*"The Lord was with Joseph and he was a successful man."
(Gen. 39:2)*

IN PRISON

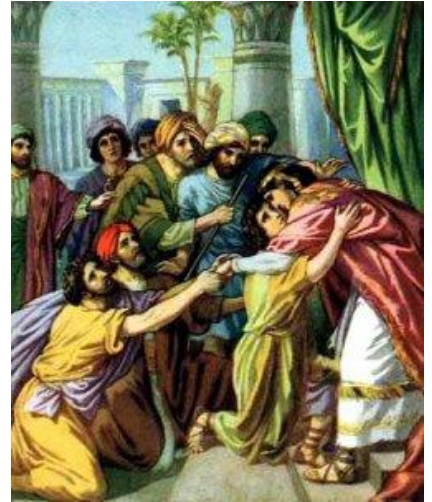
- He continued to be faithful.
- The Lord again blessed him in all his work .
- The jailer gave him charge over all the other prisoners.
- He interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's chief butler (cup-bearer) and baker.
- The chief butler returned to his position in Pharaoh's office and forgot his promise to mention Joseph's innocence to Pharaoh.

THE CHIEF MINISTER OF EGYPT

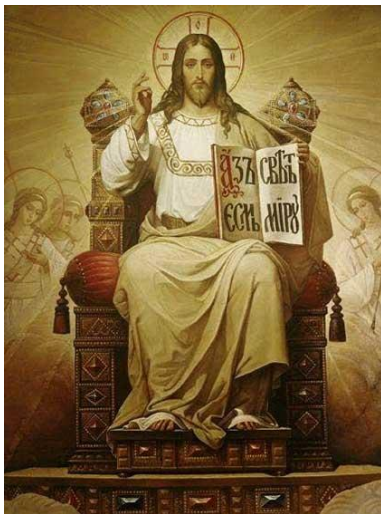
- Joseph was 30 years old when he was brought to Pharaoh to interpret his dreams about the 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine.
- He suggested the preparation for the famine by storing food during the good harvest years.
- The Pharaoh liked his proposal and made Joseph the Head of State to implement his plans for the upcoming famine.
- Pharaoh named him Zaphnath-Paaneah meaning savior of the world.

The Unusual Family Reunion

- The famine brought all the people from different nations to Egypt for help, including Joseph’s brothers from Israel.
- Although they could not recognize him, he recognized them and remembered the dreams he had as a young boy.
- After testing them in different ways, Joseph made himself known to them.
- He forgave them and persuaded them to settle in Egypt with Jacob their father.
- Joseph lived for 110 years, he had 2 sons Manasseh and Ephraim.



The Life of Joseph resembles the life of Christ in many ways



- He was loved by his father
- He was rejected by his brothers
- He turned to the gentiles
- He was unjustly tried
- He suffered
- He was exalted with honor and glory
- He delivered his people from death

“You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.” (Gen 50:20)