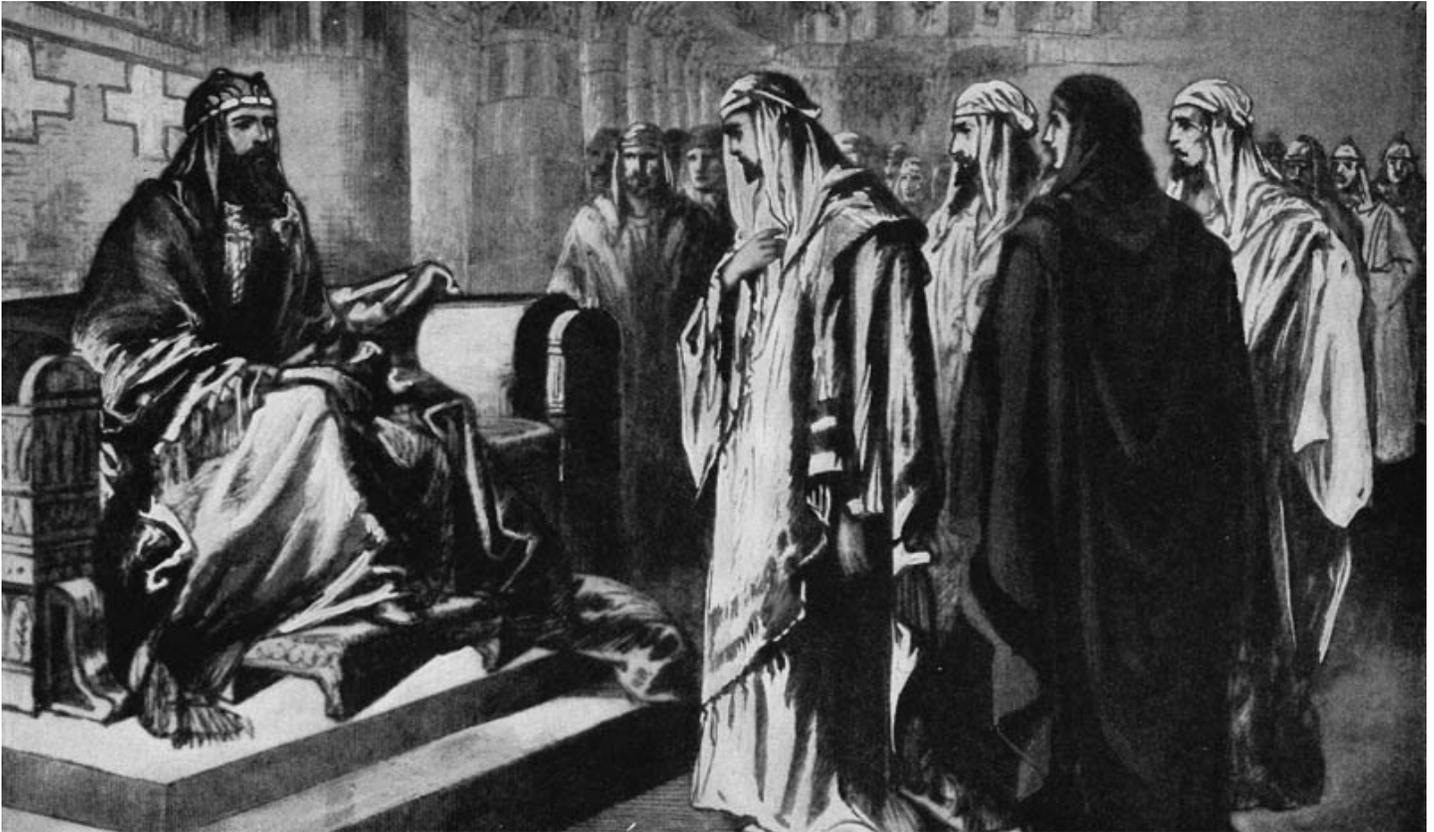


Daniel

Daniel 1 - 2



God was with Daniel and his friends in a strange country. God told Daniel the king's dream about the future of the kingdom of Babylon.



The Story

Daniel was a young boy from the land of Judah. He lived during the saddest days in history. His people had lost their country and their city and their temple. And worst of all, their God was very angry with them. But Daniel's faith in God was strong, even while he was a captive in Babylon. And there in the strange land, he received rich blessings from God.

When the army of King Nebuchadnezzar carried all the people away to Babylon, Daniel was taken too, along with his friends: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

The land of Babylon was different from the land of Judah. The people here did not know the true God. They worshipped false gods and used the gold and silver dishes and other treasures from God's temple to decorate the temples of their idols.

One day the king decided he should use some of the best young men from Judah to help in *his* kingdom. He ordered his head servant to choose the young men of Judah who were the most handsome, healthy, wise and intelligent. He was to bring them to the palace for three years to learn the king's Chaldean language. They were to eat the king's meat and drink his wine. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were among those chosen.

Melzar, the chief servant, noticed what a fine young man Daniel was. Daniel came to him with a request. Because in Israel God had forbidden the eating and drinking of certain foods, Daniel asked if he and his friends could eat only vegetables and drink only water.

Melzar was afraid of the king's anger. What if these four young men lost weight? The king might punish him, even put him to death.

Daniel begged Melzar to let them try this diet for ten days. After the ten days, Melzar was surprised to see that Daniel and

his friends looked healthier than the other young men who had eaten the king's food. He therefore allowed the four young men to continue eating vegetables and drinking water for the rest of their time at the palace.

At the end of three years, the king met with all the chosen young men from Judah. Because God had given Daniel and his friends knowledge and wisdom, none could compare with them. The king chose them to work as wise men in his kingdom.

One night King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. It bothered him so much that he couldn't sleep after the dream. The next morning he gathered all his Babylonian wise men, magicians and astrologers. He commanded them to tell him what he had dreamed about, and then to tell him the meaning of the dream.

They were shocked when the king asked them to tell him not only the meaning of the dream but also the dream itself.

The men protested, "No man can do that. Just tell us the dream and then we will tell you what it means."

The king answered, "If you are so wise, you will know what I dreamed about. You're just stalling for time."

The king became very angry and ordered all the wise men of Babylon to be destroyed. This included Daniel and his friends.

When Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, found Daniel, Daniel asked that the king give him time and he would tell him the meaning of the dream. Daniel and his friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, prayed to God for help.

During the night God showed Daniel the dream and its meaning. Daniel blessed and thanked God. Then he went to Arioch, the man who had been appointed to execute all the wise men and said to him,

“Do not destroy the wise men. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him.”

So Arioch took Daniel to the king. Daniel stood before the king and said, “Your secret dream is impossible for any man to know. But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. This God is telling you what will happen to your kingdom. ”

“What you saw was a gigantic statue, an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. Its head was pure gold, its breast and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were brass, its legs were iron and its feet were partly of iron and partly of clay. While you were watching a stone was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.”

Then Daniel explained the dream.

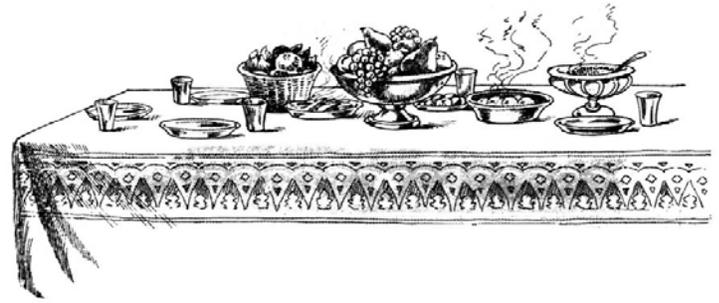
“You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you power and might and glory. In your hands he has placed humankind. Wherever men and women live, you are ruler over them. After you, another

kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron - for iron breaks and smashes everything-and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands – a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is correct.”

The king bowed down to Daniel. He said, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries for you were able to reveal this mystery.” Then the king placed Daniel in a powerful position and gave him many gifts. He made Daniel ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. He also appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to be administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel remained at the royal court.

**Although our nation and all nations will one day be destroyed,
we are believers and members of the
Kingdom of God and so shall live forever.**

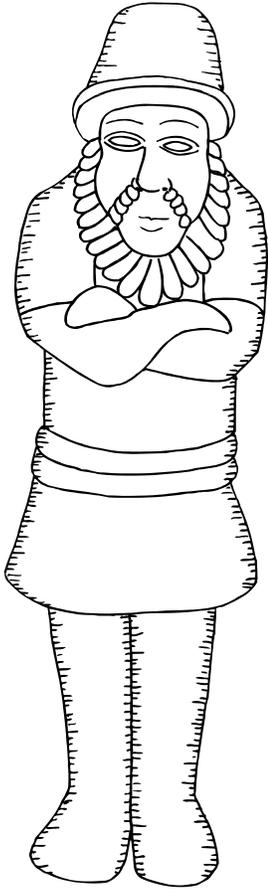
Activity One - Circle the table with the food Daniel and his friends ate. Put an X on the table of the king's food. Why couldn't Daniel and his friends eat that food?



Activity Two - Put the correct letter in the blank.

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| 1. ____ Daniel and his friends were taken to the land of ____. | A. Statue |
| 2. ____ The king wanted the young men to eat ____. | B. Babylon |
| 3. ____ Daniel and his friends wanted to obey ____. | C. God |
| 4. ____ When they ate vegetables they looked ____. | D. Stone |
| 5. ____ King Nebuchadnezzar had a ____. | E. Prayed |
| 6. ____ The king commanded his wise men to tell him it and the ____. | F. Dream |
| 7. ____ The king ordered the wise men ____ since they couldn't tell. | G. Rich food |
| 8. ____ Daniel and his friends ____ to God for help. | H. Healthy |
| 9. ____ Daniel told the king about the great ____ he dreamed of. | I. Earth |
| 10. ____ The dream told the ____ of Babylon. | J. Meaning |
| 11. ____ A ____ cut without hands would destroy the statue. | K. Killed |
| 12. ____ The Kingdom of God would fill the ____. | L. Future |

Activity Three - Write the answer on the line.



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silver

iron & clay

gold

iron

bronze

Passages

Luke 17:20-21 "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

Psalms 2:4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision.

Hymn - TLH 341 v. 1

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Thro' all eternity.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,
We know that all things on this earth
work together for our heavenly good.
Please guide and keep leaders of our land
so they follow in Your ways. Please help us
to always follow You and forgive us when
we fall. In Jesus' name. Amen.