

THE BOOK OF DANIEL
LESSON 2—QUESTIONS
DANIEL 1:1-7
OUR SOVEREIGN GOD

As we begin an exciting year together, let's pray that the Lord will strengthen and grow our faith (Col. 2:6-7) filling us with the knowledge of His will in wisdom and understanding (Col. 1:9) as we examine and study His Word.

READ DANIEL CHAPTER 1 AND THEN REREAD VERSES 1-7

1. Verse 1 introduces us to King Jehoiakim and King Nebuchadnezzar. What do you learn about King Jehoiakim in 2 Kings 23:34-37; Jer. 36:1-3,22-26; Jer. 22:18-19?

2. In verse 2a, what does Daniel reveal about God's role in the defeat and exile of his people? How might this be a vital verse in setting the stage for the entire book? What theological truths are communicated here?

3a. ***"The Lord gave"*** Jehoiakim into Nebuchadnezzar's hand (v. 2). The translation of "Lord" here is not *Yahweh*, but is an emphatic form of "*Adonay*," drawing attention to the sovereignty of God. He is Master, Owner and Ruler. Read Jeremiah 25:8-11 & 27:6-7. What information do these verses add to verse 2? What did God call Nebuchadnezzar?

b. What does this imply about human power and control?

c. How would you define God's Sovereignty? What does the certainty of God's sovereignty mean to you in your everyday life? Support your answer with scripture.

4. The events of the exile to Babylon were a fulfillment of many warnings from God. From the scripture below describe the sin Israel was guilty of.

Is. 24:5 _____

Jer. 34:12-17 _____

Jer. 7:8-11 _____

Jer. 7:24 _____

5. The prophet Jeremiah was threatened with death for predicting Jerusalem's destruction. Read Jer. 26:10-13. What was required for the Lord to turn back his plan?

6. Verse 2 draws attention to ***"the vessels of the house of God."*** What did Nebuchadnezzar do with the sacred temple articles he carried off to Shinar? What motive(s) might he have for doing this (1:2)? _____

7. In the time of Isaiah, one hundred years before Nebuchadnezzar's conquering of Judah, God spoke a warning through Isaiah. Read Isaiah 39:1-8. What did Isaiah say would happen when the Babylonians come against Judah and Hezekiah's descendants? What might verse 2 be

indicating about *the vessels of the house of God* that Nebuchadnezzar took in Daniel verse 2?

What insight does verse 7 give you into the life Daniel will live?

8. Looking at Daniel 1:3-5, and particularly the specific commands of King Nebuchadnezzar, what qualities did he look for when selecting candidates among the Jews (vv.3-4)? What did the king appoint for them (v.5)?

9. What strategy may King Nebuchadnezzar have in deporting members of *“the royal family and of the nobles”* (v. 3), and then training them in the culture and customs of the Babylonians (v. 4), as well as providing for them substantially (v. 5)? What might he be seeking to accomplish over the course of three years?

10a. What were the Hebrew names of the four men taken from Judah to Babylon (1:6)?

b. What new Babylonian name was given to each young man? (1:7)

c. The meaning of each Hebrew name referred to a characteristic of Jehovah God, while each Babylonian name referred to one of the Babylonian gods. For what purpose might

Nebuchadnezzar have in changing the names of these men?

11a. How could the requirements Nebuchadnezzar placed on the young men have made it hard for them to remain faithful to God?

b. As we will see in the coming weeks, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah remained faithful to the Lord. Read Prov. 4:23; Ps. 119:10-11 & Rom. 12:1-2. How do these verses apply to what Daniel and his friends faced? How do they apply to you personally as we live in our culture today? Do you have a favorite verse that you can add to this?
