



DANIEL CHAPTERS 1-3 (STUDY OF DANIEL—SESSION 2)

TESTING FAITH

RECAPITULATION – LAST KINGS OF JUDAH

- Manasseh 687-642 Assyrian collaborator (put Assyrian idols in the Temple), later repented (12)
- Amon 642-640 Continued idolatry, did not repent, killed by his servants in his palace (22)
- Josiah 640-609 Major religious reforms – Killed confronting Pharaoh Necho at Megiddo (8)
- Jehoahaz 609 Reigned 3 months; chosen by the people, removed by Egypt (23)
- Jehoiakim 609-598 Daniel taken to Babylon in 605 BC following the Battle of Carchemesh (25)
- Jehoiachin 598-597 Reigned 3 months; deported to Babylon (age 18) Ezekiel deported
- Zedekiah 597-586 Last king; Jerusalem and Temple Destroyed — Jeremiah (21)

WHAT IS FAITH?

It is more than intellectual assent – It is both a gift of God and a genuinely human act.

Faith is the human response to God who reveals himself: trusting him, accepting what he reveals as true, and entrusting oneself to him.

- Belief – I accept that what God has revealed is true (education/cognitive) – One cannot hold a coherent belief without an educational foundation to teach what that belief entails.
- Faithfulness – I live accordingly (formation/behavioral) – One actively expresses loyalty and dependability through habits structurally formed over time.
- Trust – I rely upon God because I believe him trustworthy (relation/interpersonal) – A healthy relation is entirely dependent on trust; without it one has transactional reliance.

ELEMENTS OF ASSIMILATION (CHAPTER 1)

- Removed from homeland and family
- Educated in Babylonian language and literature
- Given food from the king's table
- Hebrew names replaced with Babylonian names
- Prepared to serve the empire that conquered them

WHICH OF THOSE WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE /LEAST EFFECTIVE AT CHANGING SOMEONE'S IDENTITY?

WHERE DID DANIEL DRAW THE LINE?

WHERE IS THE LINE IN OUR LIVES?

KINGDOMS (CHAPTER 2)

- Gold - Babylon
- Silver – Medo-Persia
- Bronze – Greek/Macedonian
- Iron - Seleucid
- Iron & Clay - Rome
- Stone uncut by human hands – Kingdom established by God

WHO DOES DANIEL CREDIT FOR KNOWING THE DREAM?

WHAT DOES THE STATUE SAY ABOUT POLITICAL POWER?

WHEN ACCOMMODATION ENDS (CHAPTER 3)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego served Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar built an idol of gold that all should bow to.

He gave them a second chance.

WHY DO YOU THINK NEBUCHADNEZZAR MADE THE IDOL OF GOLD?

IS LOVE OR FAITH TRANSACTIONAL?

WHEN DOES PRUDENCE BECOME COWARDICE?

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THE SON OF GOD BEING IN THE FIRE?

BRINGING THE FIRST 3 CHAPTERS TOGETHER

Identity -> Wisdom -> Worship

Daniel and his friends conform to Babylon in many ways.

HOW DO THEY DETERMINE WHAT THEY CAN ACCEPT AND WHAT THEY MUST REFUSE?

WHERE ARE CHRISTIANS TODAY TEMPTED TO COMPROMISE TOO MUCH?

WHERE ARE CHRISTIANS TODAY TEMPTED TO LABEL A LEGITIMATE ACCOMODATION AS "COMPROMISE"?

What is the one area of my life where I can say, "God, I trust you to deliver me—but even if you don't give me the outcome I want, I will remain faithful?"