

## Major Event: Exile

### Lesson 3: Daniel

**Scriptures:** Daniel Chapters 1-3

**Central Text:** Daniel 3:27b-28 "...and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them. Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!"

#### **Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:**

Ch 1, Obedience: In refusing to eat food and drink offered to false gods, Daniel and his 3 teenage friends demonstrate public OBEDIENCE to God, even with the threat of persecution looming.

Ch 2, The importance of prayer: Daniel, despite his education and expertise, still knew that prayer to the omniscient God was the first step in this crisis situation. God answered Daniel's prayer and "*the secret was revealed to Daniel. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven*" v.19

Ch 3: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego model confidence in God and submission to His will, despite the threat of being thrown into a fiery furnace.

Ch 3: God is Omnipotent and chose to demonstrate his power by rescuing these obedient men from a fiery furnace. God provides this encouragement during a time in Judah's history when all else must have seemed bleak.

#### **Suggested Attributes:**

Of God: Omnipotent, Omnipresent

Of Man: Obedience to God despite the threat of death

**Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:** Daniel 3

#### **Notes:**

- Daniel was probably only a teenager when he arrived in Babylon in 605 B.C. He continued in office as a public servant at least until 538 B.C. (1:21), and as a prophet at least until 536 B.C. (10:1). Thus the record of his ministry spans 70 years, the entire duration of the Babylonian Captivity.
- Daniel's name probably means "My judge is God." Hananiah means "Yahweh has shown grace," Mishael means "Who is what God is?" and Azariah means "Yahweh has helped." The new names assigned them all included or referred to various Babylonian gods

#### **Ch. 2 Image Interpretation:**

- Head of Gold: Babylon as 1<sup>st</sup> world empire (2:38, 7:17)
- Chest and Arms of Silver: Medo Persia would defeat Babylon and est. itself as 2<sup>nd</sup> world empire (2:39, 7:17, 8:20)
- Belly and Thighs of Bronze: Greece would defeat Medo Persia and est. itself as the 3<sup>rd</sup> world empire (2:39, 7:17, 8:21)
- Legs of Iron/Feet of Iron and Clay: Rome would defeat Greece and est. itself as the 4<sup>th</sup> world empire (2:40-43, 7:17)