Walking with the Captives

Week 2

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abedego

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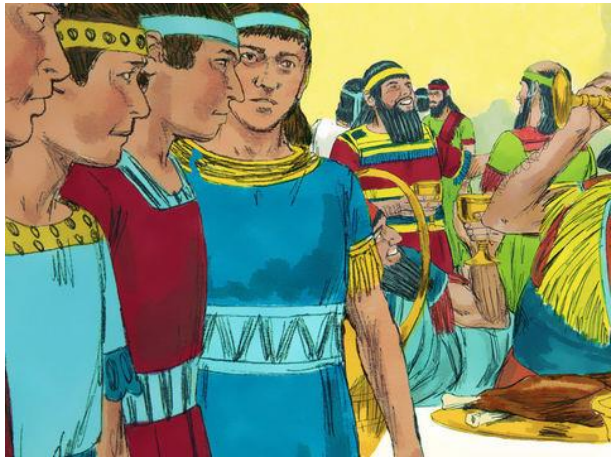
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To read the Bible online go to:

http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/King-James-Version-KJV-Bible/



Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refuse to eat the king's meat



Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace

To read KJV in 21st Century English go to:

http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/21st-Century-King-James-Version-KJ21-Bible/

Sunday

Daniel and friends won't eat meat

Bible Reading: Daniel 1v1-21

1. What did Nebuchadnezzar do with temple vessels? (v1+2)

Shinar is the area of Babylon Find it on a map
Nimrod's kingdom was in the land of Shinar (Genesis 10v8-10).

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2. Who was Ashpenaz to bring? (v3+4)
3. Why? (v4)
4. What was to be done for 3 years? (v5)
5. Who were 4 of the young men? (v6+7)

They were descendants of the king (v3). They were probably teenagers.

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6. Who was over them? (v11)
7. What would Daniel NOT do? (v8)

They were far from home. It would be easier to eat and say nothing. Just do what everyone else did. But they loved the LORD. They would obey HIM even it was hard.

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8. What did God do? (v9)
9. What did Melzar agree to do for 10 days? (v12-14)
10. So, what happened? (v15+16)

11. What did God give them? (v17)
12. How did Nebuchadnezzar find them? (v18-20)



Answers

1) Put them in the treasure house of his god in Shinar; 2) Bring certain young men of Israel, and royal heirs and princes, who are well, wise, clever, understand science and able to stand in the king's palace; 3) To teach them the learning and language of the Chaldeans; 4) King would give them meat and wine every day to feed them well; 5) Daniel (Belteshazzar), Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abednego); 6) Melzar; 7) Defile himself with the king's meat and wine; 8) Brought Daniel into favour and tender love with Melzar; 9) Let Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego eat pulse and drink water instead of king's meat and wine; 10) They were healthier and fatter than all the others, so Melzar took away the king's meat and wine, and gave them pulse to eat; 11) Knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom; 12) They were 10 times better than all magicians and astrologers in his kingdom



Why not eat the king's meat?

Jews had to keep laws about what meat they ate. They weren't to eat unclean meat like pork, rabbit etc (Leviticus 11). They weren't to eat blood (Leviticus 17). Nor were they to eat food offered to idols (Exodus 34v15).

We don't know exactly what meat Nebuchadnezzar was giving them. But there was something that didn't agree with Old Testament Jewish law.



Stop and Think!

These 4 young men had Hebrew names. Nebuchadnezzar gave them Babylonian names. He wanted them to forget their Jewish ways. He wanted to teach them Babylonian ways.

***Daniel** means 'God is my Judge'.*
Belteshazzar means 'Bel will protect'.

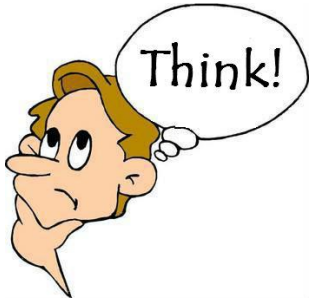
***Hananiah** means 'The Lord is gracious'. Shadrach means 'Command of Aku'.*

***Mishael** means 'Who is like the Lord'.*
Meshach means 'Who is like Aku'.

***Azariah** means 'The Lord is my helper.' Abednego means 'Servant of Nego'.*

Bel, Aku and Nego were Babylonian gods. Nebuchadnezzar could change their names. BUT he could not make them turn from God. They loved the LORD. They were not going to be brainwashed to turn from God's ways!

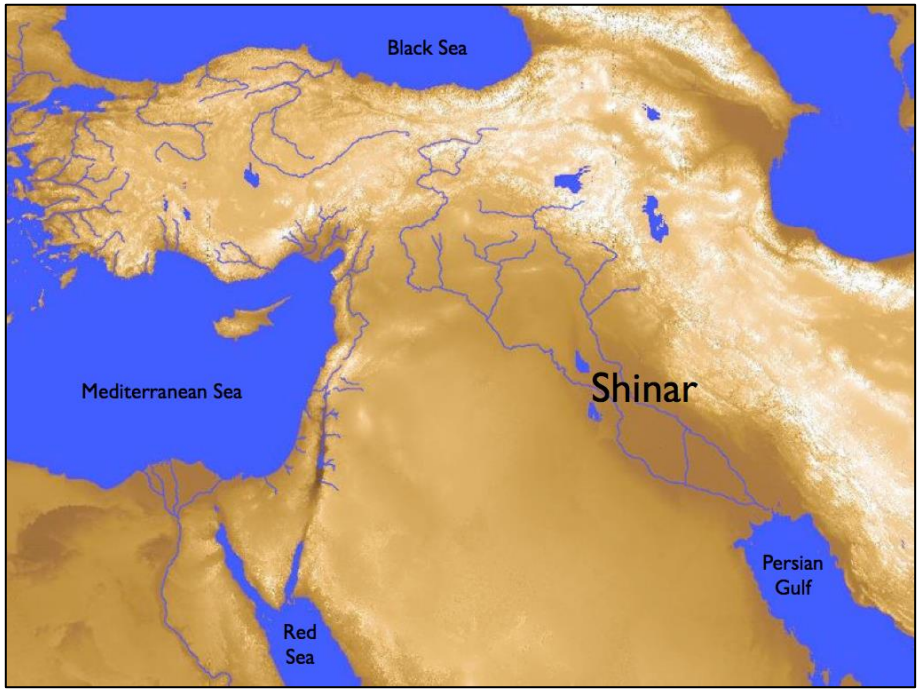
"I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word." (Psalm 119v101)



Never be afraid to say 'No' to anything that would hinder you living a holy life to please the LORD. Ask God for courage to say 'No'.

"Keep thyself pure." (1 Timothy 5v22)





Monday

Nebuchadnezzar's dream

Bible Reading: Daniel 2v1-13

1. Why could Nebuchadnezzar NOT sleep? (v1)
2. Who was brought to tell the meaning? (v2)

These were some of the wisest men in Chaldea.

3. What language did the Chaldeans speak to the king? (v4)

This is Aramaic language.

4. Why could the king NOT tell the dream? (v5)
5. What if they told the dream and its meaning? (v6)

Not every dream has a meaning about the future.

6. What if they didn't? (v5)
7. What did the king say they were doing? (v8)
8. How would he know they could tell the meaning? (v9)
9. Who did they say could tell it? (v10+11)
10. How did the king feel? (v12)
11. What did he command to do? (v12+13)
12. Who would be killed too? (v13)

MEANINGS:

Astrologers = men who studied the stars to tell the future;

Sorcerers = magicans;

Interpretation = meaning;

Dunghill = heap of manure;

Honour = great respect;

Decree = law;

Requireth = asked to do;

Fellows = friends



Where should we go to get wisdom?

a) Horoscopes
b) Ouija board
c) Fortune tellers
d) God
e) Mediums
f) Crystal ball

Answers

1) He was troubled because of what he had dreamt; 2) magicians, astrologers, and Chaldeans; 3) Syriac; 4) He couldn't remember it; 5) They would get gifts, rewards and honour; 6) They would be cut in pieces and their houses destroyed; 7) Trying to gain time; 8) If they told him the dream; 9) Nobody but the gods; 10) Very angry; 11) All the wise men in Babylon were to be killed; 12) Daniel and his friends

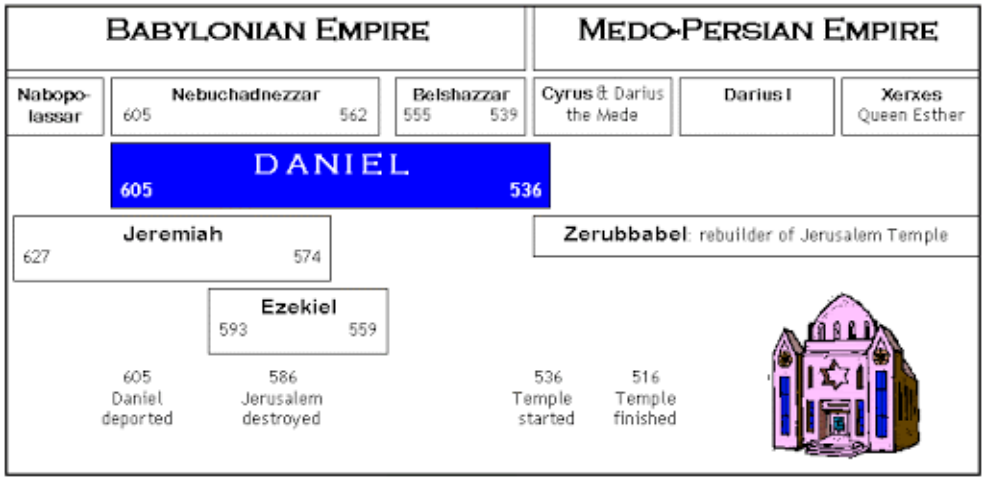
Go to God for wisdom (James 1v5). True wisdom comes from the One True Living God.

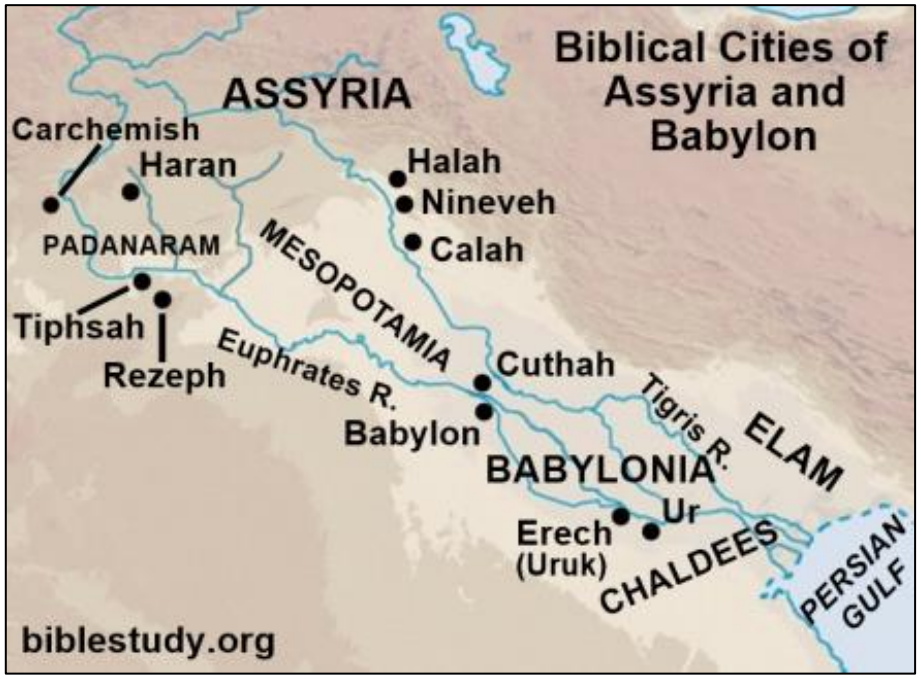


There seemed to be no hope for any of the wise men. BUT God was working out His plan. Everyone would see His Almighty power and wisdom.

So, when everything seems hopeless....remember God is working out His plan.

"The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it." (Proverbs 16v14)





Tuesday

Daniel before the king

Bible Reading: Daniel 2v14-30

1. Who was sent to kill the wise men of Babylon? (v14)
2. What did Daniel do? (v16)
3. Who did Daniel tell? (v17)

Remember they had their names changed. Hananiah was Shadrach. Mishael was Meshach. Azariah was Abednego.

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4. What did they do? (v18)

This meant that they prayed. They asked God to show them the meaning.

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5. When did God show Daniel? (v19)
6. What did Daniel do? (v19)
7. What is God's? (v20)
8. What does God do? (v21+22)
9. What did Daniel thank God for? (v23)
10. Who brought Daniel to the king? (v24+25)
11. What was God showing Nebuchadnezzar? (v28+29)
12. Why was the secret shown to Daniel? (v30)

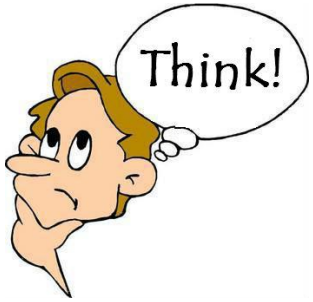


"But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets." (Daniel 2v28)

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever: for wisdom and might are his." (Daniel 2v20)

Answers

1) Arioch captain of the king's guard; 2) Asked the king for time and he would show the meaning; 3) Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; 4) Desired mercies of God about the dream; 5) Night; 6) Blessed the God of heaven; 7) Wisdom and might; 8) Changes times and seasons, removes and raises up kings, gives wisdom and knowledge, and reveals secrets; 9) For giving him wisdom and might, and making known to them the king's dream; 10) Arioch; 11) What was going to happen from that time; 12) For those that would give the meaning to Nebuchadnezzar and that he would know the thoughts of his heart.



Daniel and his friends believed God would answer their prayers.

Ask God, believing He will answer your prayers. And don't forget to thank the LORD when He does!

Wednesday

Daniel tells the meaning

Bible Reading: Daniel 2v31-49

1. What had the king seen in his dream? (v31)
2. What was it like? (v32+33)
3. What broke it? (v34)
4. What did the stone become? (v35)
5. What had God given Nebuchadnezzar? (v37)
6. What would arise after him? (v39+40)
7. What would the 4th kingdom be like? (v42)
8. What would God set up? (v44)
9. What did Nebuchadnezzar do? (v46)

He wanted them to worship Daniel. Oblations were offerings to gods. Sweet odours were incense burned to gods. Worshipping man is wrong. But Nebuchadnezzar didn't know the One True Living God. He worshipped other gods.

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10. What did he say about Daniel's God? (v47)
11. What did the king do for Daniel? (v48)
12. What did Daniel ask him? (v49)

"The most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will." (Daniel 4v25)



Answers

1) A great image; 2) It had gold head, silver breast and arms, brass belly and thighs, iron legs, and feet made of iron and clay; 3) A stone; 4) A great mountain that filled the whole earth; 5) A kingdom, power, strength and glory; 6) 2nd, 3rd and 4th kingdoms to rule over the earth; 7) Partly strong and partly broken; 8) A kingdom that will never be destroyed; 9) Fell on his face and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they make offering and sweet odours to him; 10) He is God of gods, LORD of kings, and Revealer of secrets; 11) Made him a great man, gave him many gifts, made him ruler over whole province of Babylon, and chief governor over all the wise men of Babylon; 12) To put Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego over affairs in the province of Babylon



What did the dream mean?

The dream was about world powers. Nebuchadnezzar was king of the Babylonian Empire.

The Medo-Persian Empire would be next....then the Greek Empire....and then the Roman Empire. Now there are modern powers that rule the world.

But one day the Lord Jesus will come back. He will destroy all the kingdoms of the world. He will set up His kingdom. It will never be destroyed.



Did you know?

Messiah (Christ) is called a Stone

(Psalm 118v22; Matthew 21v42-44)

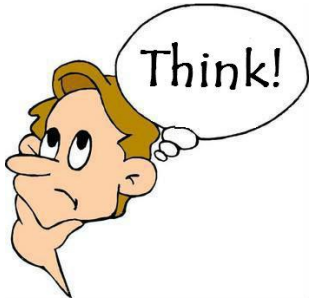




There are no secrets with God. He knows everything

(John 21v17; Romans 11v33).

He knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46v10). He controls history (Daniel 4v25).

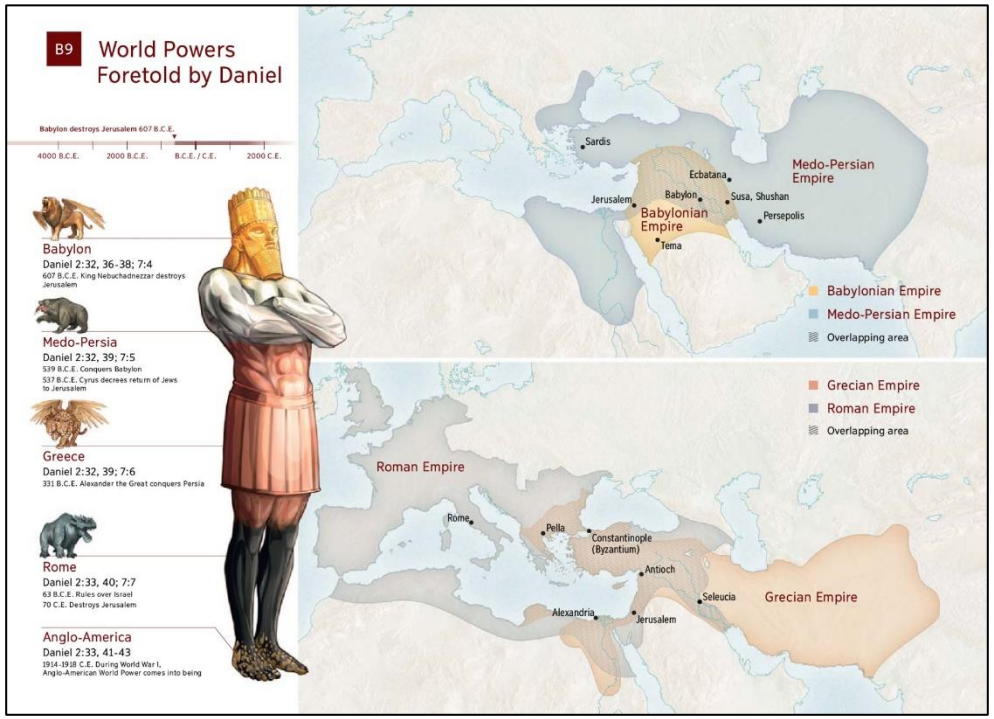


Daniel wasn't going to take all the glory. He wanted God to have the praise (v28). And he didn't forget his friends that prayed with him (v49).

Always praise God first. And don't forget others who prayed with you.

"Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation." (Psalm 119v98+99)



Thursday

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego won't bow

Bible Reading: Daniel 3v1-18

1. Where did Nebuchadnezzar set up an image? (v1)

The plain of Dura was somewhere near Babylon. Find Babylon on a map

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2. What size was it? (v1)

Wow! It was some size of an image. It was 90 feet high and 9 feet wide. And it was made out of gold!

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3. Who came to the dedication of it? (v2+3)
4. What were they all to do? (v4+5)
5. What if they didn't? (v6)
6. What did some Chaldeans do? (v8)

They may have been jealous that Jewish captives were rulers in Babylon.

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7. Who wouldn't worship it? (v12)
8. How did Nebuchadnezzar feel? (v13)
9. What did Nebuchadnezzar tell them to do? (v14+15)
10. Who did they serve? (v17)
11. What did they trust Him to do? (v17)
12. What if He didn't? (v18)



"We ought to obey God rather than men." (Acts 5v29)

Answers

1) Plain of Dura in Babylon; 2) 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide; 3) Princes, governors, captains, judges, treasurers, counsellors, sheriffs and all rulers of the provinces of Babylon; 4) Fall down and worship the big golden image when they heard the music; 5) They would be cast into the burning fiery furnace; 6) Accused the Jews; 7) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego; 8) Really angry; 9) To be ready when they heard the music to fall down and worship it; 10) God; 11) Deliver them; 12) They wouldn't serve Nebuchadnezzar's gods or worship the golden image



Nebuchadnezzar's Image

Daniel had told Nebuchadnezzar that he was the head of gold. There would be other kingdoms after him (2v37-40).

Nebuchadnezzar may have wanted to think his kingdom would be forever. Maybe that's why he made the whole statue from gold.



Why would they not bow?

They would have been breaking God's 2nd commandment (Exodus 20v4-6). We're not to bow down to or worship any image.

Surely it would have been OK to bow....but not worship it in their hearts? Or just bow a little bit. People would think they bowed. It would save their lives.

No! They were going to obey God....even if they had to die. Everyone would see that the One True Living God was their God.



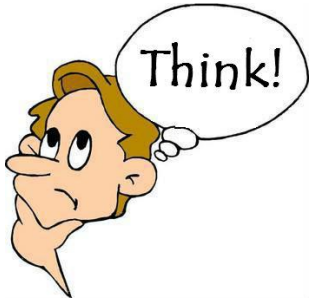


Why was Daniel not there?

The Bible doesn't tell us.

Maybe he was so powerful in the land that he didn't have to bow. Or maybe he was away doing other business for the king.

But he hadn't stopped obeying God first. Read the rest of the book and you'll see that.



What would you have done if you were there? What do you do when everyone else is doing wrong? Do you stand for God....no matter what?

Remember: Just because everyone else is doing something, doesn't mean it is right.

Friday

God delivers them from the fiery furnace

Bible Reading: Daniel 3v19-30

1. How was Nebuchadnezzar? (v19)

He was the most powerful king in the world. How dare they disobey him! But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would rather serve the LORD

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2. How many times hotter was the furnace? (v19)
3. What did the most mighty men do? (v20+21)
4. What happened to these men? (v22)
5. Why was Nebuchadnezzar astonished? (v24+25)
6. Who was the 4th like? (v25)
7. So, what did Nebuchadnezzar do? (v26)
8. How well had God protected them? (v27)
9. Who did Nebuchadnezzar bless? (v28)
10. What law did he make? (v29)
11. Why? (v29)

This doesn't mean that Nebuchadnezzar turned to God from his sin. He was just saying that he knew this was God's power.

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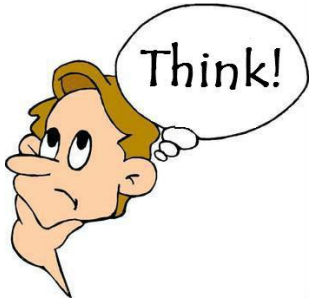
12. What did Nebuchadnezzar do for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? (v30)



Answers

1) Full of fury against Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego; 2) 7 times hotter; 3) Bound Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and threw them into the fiery furnace; 4) Fire killed them; 5) He saw 4 men loose and walking in the fire; 6) The Son of God; 7) Called Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego out of the fiery furnace; 8) They were not burned, nor their hair singed, nor clothes burnt, not even the smell of smoke on them; 9) The God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego; 10) anyone who speaks against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would be cut in pieces and their houses destroyed; 11) There is no other God that could deliver like that; 12) Promoted them in the province of Babylon

"Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." (Isaiah 43v1+2)



The Lord was with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace.

If you are a child of God....then the Lord is always with you. He won't leave you to face the hard times alone. He will help you through your trials and suffering.

Ask Him to give you courage to do what's right. Be brave and bold for Him.



Stop and Think!

Nebuchadnezzar knew that:

1. *The God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego is the Most High God (v26).*
2. *It was God who delivered them (v28). No other gods could deliver like this (v29).*
3. *The God of Daniel is a God of gods, a Lord of kings, a Revealer of secrets (2v47).*

Nebuchadnezzar knew a lot about God BUT he didn't know God himself. He still worshipped other gods.

You can know a lot about God but still not know God.

Saturday

Nebuchadnezzar dreams about a great tree

Bible Reading: Daniel 4v1-18

1. What did Nebuchadnezzar say about God? (v3)
2. What was Nebuchadnezzar doing? (v4)
3. What troubled him? (v5)
4. Who could NOT interpret the dream? (v6+7)
5. What did he call Daniel? (v8+9)
6. What did he say was in Daniel? (v8+9)
7. What had Nebuchadnezzar dreamed? (v10-12)
8. Who came from heaven? (v13)
9. What did he shout? (v14)
10. What was to be left? (v15)
11. What would happen for 7 years? (v16)
12. Why? (v17)



Why should we be humble before God?

a) So we can tell meanings of visions

b) So we get to tell kings what to do

c) So God will get all the praise

d) So others people will be jealous of us

MEANINGS:

Fair = lovely;

Fowls = birds;

Boughs = large branch;

Hew = cut down;

Demand = sentence, punishment;

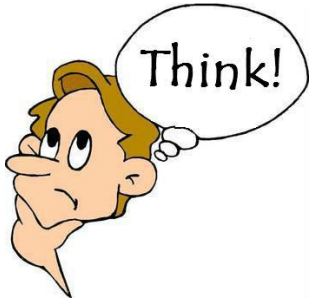
Basest = lowest

"Praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase." (Daniel 4v37)

Answers

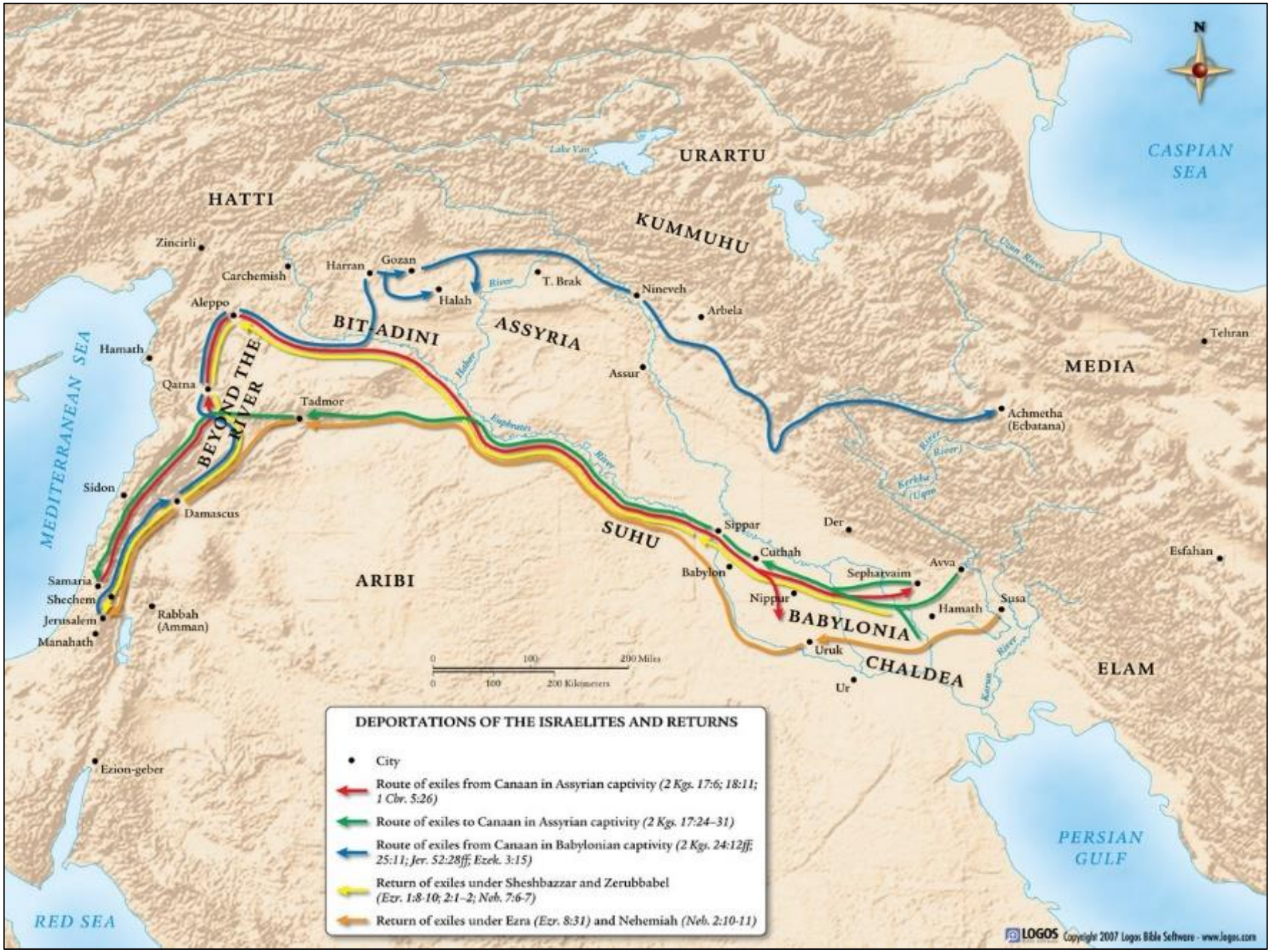
1) His signs are great, His wonders are mighty, His kingdom is everlasting, and he will rule forever; 2) He was at rest in his house and flourishing in his palace; 3) His thoughts and visions; 4) All the wise men of Babylon, magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers; 5) Belteshazzar; 6) The spirit of the holy gods; 7) A great strong tree grew up to heaven, its leaves were beautiful, its fruit was for food, animals rested under it, and birds lived in it; 8) A watcher and a holy one; 9) Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches; 10) The stump of roots with a band of iron and brass around it; 11) Nebuchadnezzar would live like an animal for 7 years; 12) That the living would know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whoever he wants, and sets up over it the basest of men

We should be humble so that God will get all the praise.



Nebuchadnezzar said the spirit of the holy gods was in Daniel (v18). BUT it really was the Spirit of God who was in Daniel.

The Holy Spirit lives in every true Christian. Does He live in you? Can others see the difference He makes in your life?


N
CASPIAN SEA
URARTU
HATTI
KUMMUHU
Lake Van
Zincirli
Carchemish
Harran
Gozan
Halah
T. Brak
Nineveh
Arbela
Aleppo
BIT-ADINI
ASSYRIA
Assur
Tehran
MEDIA
Hamath
Qatna
BEYOND THE RIVER
Tadmor
Euphrates
Achmetha (Ecbatana)
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Sidon
Damascus
SUHU
Sippar
Der
Cuthah
Babylon
Avva
Esfahan
Sephatvaim
Samaria
Shechem
Jerusalem
Manahath
Rabbah (Amman)
ARIBI
Nippur
Hamath
Susa
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Uruk
CHALDEA
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Ur
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DEPORTATIONS OF THE ISRAELITES AND RETURNS
City
Route of exiles from Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:6; 18:11; 1 Chr. 5:26)
Route of exiles to Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:24–31)
Route of exiles from Canaan in Babylonian captivity (2 Kgs. 24:12ff; 25:11; Jer. 52:28ff; Ezek. 3:15)
Return of exiles under Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel (Ezr. 1:8-10; 2:1–2; Neh. 7:6-7)
Return of exiles under Ezra (Ezr. 8:31) and Nehemiah (Neh. 2:10-11)
Ezion-geber
RED SEA
PERSIAN GULF
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Old English words

Afar	Far away
Ass	Donkey
Aught	Anything at all
Befallen	Happened to
Dealt	Done
Dost, Doest	Do
Draw nigh	Come near
Fetch	Go and get
Gat	Get, got
Hence	From this place
Hereby	By this
Heretofore	Before now
Hindmost	Last
Hither	Here
Hitherto	Up until now
Howbeit	However, nevertheless
Inasmuch	Since
Midst	Middle
Mixt	Mixed
Nigh	Near
Notwithstanding	Nevertheless, in spite of this
Peradventure	Perhaps
Plow	Plough
Straightway	Immediately
Selfsame	That same
Shew	Show
Thereon	On that
Therewith	With that
Thither	To there
Thou	You *(singular)*
Thou art	You are
Thrust out	Cast out
Uttermost	Farthest
Whence	From where
Wherefore	Why
Wherewith	With which
Whilst	While
Whither	To where
Whomsoever	Whoever
Wilt	Will
Wit, wot, wist	Know
Withholden	Held back
Wont to do	In the habit of doing
Wrought	Done, made

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