

LESSONS FROM DANIEL'S DILEMMA

Living Faithfully in an Unfriendly World, Daniel 1:1-7

August 9, 2015

Daniel starts his book by emphasizing that Babylon's victory over Jerusalem wasn't a tragic triumph of evil over good. For Daniel, God's sovereign control over men and nations factored into every equation.

Background:

First Thing (vv. 1-2):

Indoctrination (vv. 3-7):

1. **A** _____ the inevitable interruptions of life.
2. **Don't get hung up about the S** _____ of your situation.
3. **R** _____ the belief that you are entitled to "the good life."
4. **Resist B** _____ others for the problems you face.
5. **Remember that God wants to use you in G** _____ ways than you've ever dreamed of being used.

During the message you can write any question about the sermon on the bulletin insert and then put it in the offering bag. The pastor and elders will answer as many questions as possible in the remaining time.

THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Before we study the book of Daniel, knowing some of the key people and dates of the history of Israel will be helpful.

- 1010-970 B.C. King David rules over the united kingdom.
- 970-930 B.C. King Solomon rules over the united kingdom.
- 966 B.C. The Temple of the Lord is dedicated in Jerusalem.
- 930 B.C. The Kingdom of Israel is divided into North and South.
- 740-681 B.C. **Isaiah** warns of the coming judgment against Israel.
- 722 B.C. Fall of the Northern Kingdom (**Isaiah dies – 681 B.C.**)
- 626-585 B.C. **Jeremiah** warns of coming judgment against Judah.
- 606 B.C. **Daniel** taken captive to Babylon.
- 597 B.C. **Ezekiel** taken captive to Babylon.
- 586 B.C. Fall of the Southern Kingdom (**Jeremiah dies – 585 B.C.**).
- 539 B.C. Fall of Babylon to Persians.
- 536 B.C. Cyrus decrees that the Jews can return to Jerusalem (70 years from the taking of the first captives in 606 B.C.)
- 530 B.C. **Daniel** dies.
- 516 B.C. Temple rebuilt (70 years from its destruction in 586 B.C.).