

/We will now begin the second lecture on the book of Daniel. /The main passage we will look at is Daniel chapter 1. /The title is “Captivity.”

/First, the Lord delivers Judah and articles from the temple to the enemy. /Verses 1-2. /Second, material, scholarly, and physical testing. /Testing. /Verses 3-5. /Third, changing of believers’ names. /Verses 6-7.

/Fourth, Daniel’s resolution not to defile himself. /Verse 8. /Fifth, God opens doors for those who walk in faith. /Verses 9-13. /Sixth, triumph over the ten days testing. /Verses 14-16. /Seventh, profits for those who overcome the tests. /Verses 17-21.

/Read verse 1. /In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

/God put the articles of the Jerusalem temple, the king of Judah, and a number of the people of Judah into the hands of the enemy. /The king of Babylon besieged Judah. /At this time, Jehoiakim was in the third year of his reign.

/This specifically tells us the accuracy of this historical event. /Nebuchadnezzar is king of Babylon. /He was king from 605 BC to 562 BC.

/Verse 2. /And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

/Here it says, “the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into the king of Babylon’s hand.” /Here, “the Lord” did this. /This means that the captivity of Judah took place under God’s rule and approval.

/This teaches us about God’s absolute authority and rule. /Israel was taken captive, yet, it teaches us that God governs over all things. /God does not govern only over Judah.

/God governs over other nations as well. /Babylon’s captivity of Judah took place at God’s approval. /Isaiah 45:7. /Isaiah 10:24. /God sometimes used the Assyrians to discipline the Israelites. /2 Kings 5:1.

/Aram’s captivity of Israel also took place at God’s approval. /Then in Jonah 2:3, /it says that Jonah’s time in the fish and the sweeping of the waves of the sea took place at God’s approval.

/Verse 2 mentions Babylonia, or Shinar. /Shinar is the former name of Babylon. /Genesis 10:10. /Genesis 11:2. /Genesis 14:1. /Isaiah 11:11. /The “house of his god” /is the god of Babylon.

/The god of Babylon is called “Bel.” /Bel. /There was another god named “Marduk.” /The Marduk god. /The Babylonians took articles from the temple of Jerusalem, and put

them in the house of their god.

/The people of Judah were taken captive by Babylon three times. /The first captivity took place in 605 BC. /This was during the first year of reign of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. /This was also during the third year of Jehoiakim king of Judah. /2 Kings 24:1-4.

/Verses 1 and 2 tell us of the first captivity. /Then there was the second captivity. /The people of Judah were taken captive to Babylon a second time. /This took place in 597 BC.

/This was during the reign of Jehoiachin king of Judah. /2 Kings 24:10-14. /At the time, the prophet Ezekiel was taken into captivity. /Then the third captivity took place in 586 BC. /586 BC.

/The third captivity took place during the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah. /King Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem and burned down God's temple in Jerusalem. /2 Kings 25:8-16.

/Judah was taken captive by Babylon for a total of three times. /Then during the third captivity in 586 BC, Judah was completely destroyed.

/Why did God have the people of Judah be taken captive by Babylon? /There are several reasons for their captivity. /First, they sinned by serving idols. /Jeremiah 1:13-14. /Jeremiah 2:13. /Jeremiah 7:8. /Jeremiah 15:12. /Jeremiah 25:6-9.

/The people of Judah left God and disgraced the temple of God. /They served idols. /The people of Judah had been warned many times by prophets not to serve idols. /Still, the people of Judah served idols.

/Then what are idols that exist in today's time? /Anything we love more than God is an idol. /Anything we consider more precious than God is an idol. /Anything that we rely on more than God is an idol.

/Money, honor, and people can be idols. /The self can be an idol, as well as greed. /People who serve idols in this world are those who serve idols for themselves. /Deuteronomy 9:12, 16. /12, 16. /Deuteronomy 9:12, 16.

/Next, there was a second reason for why Israel was taken captive. /The second reason was that they had sinned by not keeping the Sabbath. /Nehemiah 13:15-18. /In the Old Testament times, Saturdays were kept as the Sabbath. /However, in the New Testament times, Sundays were kept as the Sabbath.

/The seventh day was kept as the Sabbath in the Old Testament times. /In the New Testament times, the first day is kept as the Sabbath. /Thus, Sunday is the first day of the week. /Hebrews 7:18. /Hebrews 4:4-7. /Today, we must keep Sundays as the Sabbath.

/Sunday is the day Jesus resurrected from the dead. /John 20:1. /Matthew 28:1. /This is also the day the apostle John received the revelation. /Revelation 1:10. /This is also the day the Holy Spirit came at the Pentecost. /Acts 2:1-4. /The apostles of the early church kept Sundays as the Sabbath. /Acts 20:7. /1 Corinthians 16:2.

/We must keep Sundays as the Sabbath and keep it holy. /Isaiah 58:13-14. /We must not be involved in worldly works /and worldly entertainment, /but keep the day as a day of worshipping God.

/In such ways, the people of Israel failed to keep the Sabbath, and therefore, were taken captive. /There is a third reason for the captivity of the people of Israel.

/Third, they sinned by relying on earthly materials. /2 Kings 20:12-18. /King Hezekiah defeated the Assyrian army. /Hezekiah fought and defeated the Assyrian army of 185,000 men, with the power of God.

/Also, when King Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death, he was healed by the power of God. /At the time, envoys from Babylon came to Judah. /The Babylonians came to see and comprehend how the small Judah was able to defeat Assyria.

/King Hezekiah showed them all the treasures and armor in his kingdom. /This was King Hezekiah's mistake. /King Hezekiah needed to show off God and prove that it was by God's power that Judah was able to defeat Assyria.

/Yet, King Hezekiah showed off his treasures and armor. /Therefore, God said, "The descendants of Hezekiah will be taken captive." /Jeremiah 17:5-6.

/Thus, we must not depend on the world, and we must not depend on materials. /We must be boastful of our God and must testify of God. /We must not brag about the things of the world or about outward things. /1 Samuel 4:3.

/Next, what was the fourth reason for why they were taken captive? /It was because they sinned by breaking the covenant. /They threw away the promise they had made with God. /Ezekiel 17:15-16. /Also, the leaders of the people of Judah became corrupted. /Jeremiah 6:13.

/They did not repent. /Jeremiah 25:3. /Therefore, God put the people of Judah into the hands of Babylon. /God allowed the Babylonians to take captive the people of Judah.

/Verses 3-4. /Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility--young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.

/The king of Babylon picked men from the royal family and nobility of the people of Judah. /He picked men who had no physical defect, and men who were intelligent. /He wanted to train them so that they could be assets to Babylon.

/The king of Babylon did not choose just anybody, but chose men he could use for his benefit. /Then he taught the chosen men the language and literature of the Babylonians.

/He said to bring to his kingdom, men without physical defect, handsome, and who showed aptitude for learning. /The “chief of his court officials” refers to one who was an eunuch of high rank.

/Verse 3. /Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility--

/He chose people to bring to his palace. /This means that he needed men who were compatible with his character, etiquette, and behavior. /He needed men who were refined. /Thus, he needed men to train, who would one day govern the people of the land.

/Verse 5. /The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

/The king also assigned the men a daily amount of food. /The men ate food and wine from the king's table. /They were also educated in every kind of learning and language.

/Here, “every kind of learning” refers to many fields, such as literature and astronomy. /At the time, Babylon's education curriculum was of the highest quality. /Babylon was a powerful nation.

/There, the men were given opportunities to learn deeply about many fields of education. /The men who showed aptitude were also taught talents. /“Aptitude” refers to discernment and comprehension. /“Language” refers to many languages.

/The men were not only taught the language of Babylon, but languages of other nations as well. /They were also allowed to eat a daily amount of food from the king's table. /The men were to gain beauty and poise so that they might be fit to work in the palace.

/They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. /“To enter the king's service,” teaches us that the Word of God would be soon fulfilled. /Isaiah 39:7.

/Isaiah prophesied that King Hezekiah's descendants would become eunuchs of Babylon. /Just as Isaiah prophesied, the young men of Judah would become eunuchs. /This included Daniel and his three friends.

/They were able to study as much as they wanted to. /They were able to eat the same

high-quality food that the king ate. /Then when three years passed and they trained well, they would work as high officials in the palace.

/Verse 6. /Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

/Verse 7. /The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

/Daniel had three friends. /King Nebuchadnezzar gave new Babylonian names to Daniel and his three friends. /The name “Daniel” means, “God judges.” /“God is my judge.” /However, he was given a new name, “Belteshazzar.”

/"Belteshazzar" means, "Marduk protect the king." /"Marduk protect the king." /"Hananiah" means, "grace, mercy, gift of the Lord." /"YAHWEH is gracious." /That is what his name means. /However, Hananiah's name was changed to "Shadrach."

/"Shadrach" means, "my sun god." /"My sun god." /"Mishael" means, "compare with God" /Or "who is like the Lord?" /However, his name was changed to "Meshach."

/"Meshach" means, "god of earth." /"Azariah" means, "Jehovah helps." /Jehovah is my help." /However, his name was changed to "Abednego." /"Abednego" means, "servant of Nego." /"Nego" is presumed to be the son of the Babylonian god, "Bel."

/In this way, the names that belonged to God were changed to names of the Babylonians. /This shows that the Babylonians attempted to take advantage of the people of God. /This was the devil's evil trick that the Babylonians would use people for themselves.

/The reason behind the name changes was so that the men would assimilate Babylon's incorrect culture and gods. /The Babylonians attempted to change the men's consciousness of their faith. /The Babylonians wanted the men to leave their faith and be indulged in the world.

/Verse 8. /But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

/Daniel was resolute. /He made the decision not to eat the food and wine offered by the king. /Daniel believed that he would be defiled if he ate the king's food. /Daniel asked the chief official for permission not to eat the food.

/It says Daniel was resolute. /Daniel made a decision. /He decided to keep his faith. /He decided not to be indulged in the world. /He decided he would do whatever he could to keep his faith.

/Esther said, "If I perish, I perish," as she went before the king. /Ruth followed her mother-in-law to the end. /Abraham made the decision to leave his country, people, and

father's household. /It is important that we make resolutions to keep our faith.

/It is important that our hearts stay firm. /Then we won't be shaken in whatever trials we may face. /Daniel knew that the devil wanted them to eat the royal food so that they would leave their faith.

/The king was good and considerate of the men, and this was physically comfortable. /However, in regards to their faith, it was a great obstacle in chasing after God. /Philippians 4:12-13.

/Daniel and his three friends protected their faith, whether the king was good to them or not. /Why did they believe that the king's food and wine would defile their spirits?

/Why did they believe that the king's food and wine would defile their spirits? /First, there was possibly meat among the royal food that the Bible told them not to eat. /Jeremiah 11:1-23. /11:1-23. /1-23.

/In the Old Testament, people were not allowed to eat animals that chewed cud. /They were not to eat animals without split hoofs. /They were not to eat fish without scales. /However, people were allowed to eat all this in the New Testament times. /Colossians 2:12-13. /Colossians 2:12-13.

/Rituals and ceremonies were gotten rid of in the New Testament times. /We can now eat pork. /We can eat eel and mackerel. /However, people in the Old Testament times were not allowed to eat animals without split hoofs or animals that did not chew cud.

/However, the Babylonians at the time ate whatever they wished. /Therefore, Daniel and his three friends could not eat the royal food. /Then why did Daniel say that the royal food would defile him?

/Second, foreigners of the land ate the food that they offered to their gods. /Hence, on the table of the royal food and wine were food that were given as offerings to gods. /1 Corinthians 10:18. /Acts 15:29.

/As it says in Acts 15:29, we must not eat food sacrificed to idols. /In Acts 15:29, it says that we are not to eat meat of strangled animals. /We must not eat food sacrificed to idols. /We must not eat blood.

/It is clearly written in the New Testament. /Therefore, even now in the New Testament period, we are not to eat blood or food sacrificed to idols. /We must not eat meat of strangled animals.

/Next, why did Daniel say that he would be defiled if he ate the royal food? /Third, the royal food was too extravagant and too abundant. /It was too expensive. /The food was too extravagant.

/It is easy to become indulged in expensive food. /One will then lose faith and be covered by the things of the world. /Therefore, Daniel and his three friends attempted to protect their faith.

/Daniel decided not to eat the royal food, and he also asked the chief official for permission. /Daniel asked the chief official for permission. /This shows Daniel's gentle and humble character, in that he sought the permission of a high official.

/When we keep our faith, we must follow order. /Protecting our faith must be the principle. /We must make sure there is little to no conflict with others and we must not fight. /We must keep the order.

/We must protect our faith as we strive to understand and respect those of higher ranks than us. /We must do our best until the end. /We must do our best to protect our faith.

/In this way, Daniel first asked the chief official. /This means that he did not break the order, but he sought with a gentle and humble heart.

/Then in verse 12, Daniel asked that they be tested for ten days. /He asked that he and his three friends be tested for ten days. /God directs a person's heart.

/Verse 9. /Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel,

/God caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel. /Proverbs 21:1. /God controlled the heart of the king. /God controlled the heart of the chief official.

/Hence, the paths of Daniel and his three friends were opened. /No matter how difficult situations may be for us, we must believe and trust that God will take care of our problems. /When we are determined to keep our faith, God will open doors for us.

/Verse 10. /but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

/The official listened to Daniel and said, "I am afraid of my lord the king." /The official said that he was afraid of the king. /This means that if the faces of the young men showed exhaustion, then the official's life would be in danger.

/Daniel feared God. /The official feared the king. /We must fear God and not be afraid of people. /King Saul was afraid of people. /1 Samuel 15:24. /Proverbs 29:25.

/Verse 11. /Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,

/The chief official spoke to Daniel and his three friends. /The chief official spoke to the guard.

/Verse 12. /"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink.

/Daniel and his friends were to be tested for ten days. /"Please" means that he requested earnestly. /This shows Daniel's humility and his attitude towards someone of higher rank than he. /Daniel petitioned for permission.

/Daniel referred to him and his friends as "servants" and requested earnestly. /We must keep order and keep our faith. /Daniel first made sure he knew what he wanted, then asked the official.

/Third, he asked that they be tested for ten days. /The "vegetables" refer to vegetables and grains. /Daniel trusted the power of God and thus, courageously asked to be tested.

/Daniel believed that God would give him victory in the test. /He believed that God would be on his side. /The number 10 is the number of mankind's limit.

/Ten days is a period of time that man can handle, only if he gives the best of his ability. /Man must pour out all his strength. /Genesis 24:55. /31:7. /Revelation 2:10. /James 1:12.

/Verse 13. /Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see."

/Daniel asked that they be tested for ten days, and then treated according to their appearance. /This means that Daniel trusted God with the results of the test. /This does not mean that they will eat the royal food.

/This means that they will not consume the royal food or wine. /They believed that after ten days, God would give them victory and they trusted in God. /If Daniel had stayed put, there would have been no need for he and his friends to be tested.

/When we yield our faith and give up our conscience, there will be no hardships. /2 Timothy 3:12. /We receive persecutions because we are pious. /Daniel and his three friends faced this test to protect their faith, and they faced hardships.

/This ten days testing would not take place forever. /If they passed the ten days test, they would be able to overcome three years of testing. /This does not mean that they would be tested for literally three years, but they needed to be tested for ten days.

/If we endure ten days of testing, we can easily overcome three years of testing. /When we are tested and we lay down our lives in obedience, God will give us victory. /We must overcome the first test.

/When we keep the Sabbath one time in our homes, we can continue to overcome and keep the Sabbath. /However, if we fail to show our families the keeping of the Sabbath,



we will receive continuous tests.

/We will be made competent through tests. /We will gain character through tests.

/Verses 14-15. /So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food.

/During the ten days, Daniel and his three friends ate only vegetables and water, yet, they looked healthier and better nourished than the men who ate the royal food.

/Here we will conclude the second lecture on Daniel. /Thank you.