

A scroll with a parchment-like texture, featuring a central rectangular area with a lighter, cream-colored background. The scroll is bound with red, cylindrical rollers at the top and bottom. The background of the entire image is a dark, textured brown with a decorative Greek key border in red and black at the top and bottom. The text is centered on the scroll.

Daniel

God's Prophet

Why were the Israelites in Babylon?

2 Chronicles 36:5-6 NKJV Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God. ⁽⁶⁾ Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him, and bound him in bronze fetters to carry him off to Babylon.

Why were the Israelites in Babylon?

Jeremiah 9:12-14 NKJV Who is the wise man who may understand this? And who is he to whom the mouth of the LORD has spoken, that he may declare it? Why does the land perish and burn up like a wilderness, so that no one can pass through? ⁽¹³⁾ And the LORD said, "Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it, (14) but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them," ...

Nebuchadnezzar's Plan

Daniel 1:1-2

**Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon besieges Jerusalem
Jehoiakim, king of Judah taken captive to Babylon**

Daniel 1:3-7

- **Nebuchadnezzar instructed the master of his eunuch's**
- **some of children of Israel, king's descendants, nobles**
- **young men, no blemish, good looking, gifted in wisdom**

Nebuchadnezzar's Plan

Purpose for the Young Men:

- **3 years of training to teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans**
- **To serve the king**
- **Given daily provision of king's delicacies**

Nebuchadnezzar's Plan

Four Young Men - sons of Judah

Daniel

Belteshazzar

Hananiah

Shadrach

Mishael

Meshach

Azariah

Abed-Nego

- **Chief of the eunuchs gave them Chaldean names**

Nebuchadnezzar's Plan

Daniel and Friends Faithfulness:

Daniel 1:8-20

- 1. refused to eat the king's delicacies - would not defile himself**
- 2. test for 10 days - vegetables to eat; water to drink**
- 3. features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate delicacies**

Nebuchadnezzar's Plan

Daniel and Friends Faithfulness:

Daniel 1:8-20

GOD's Blessings

- knowledge and skill in all literature
- wisdom
- Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams
- Nebuchadnezzar found them 10x better than all the magicians and astrologers

Lessons for Us Today

1. Importance of faithfulness

- Proverbs 3:3-4 - Let love and faithfulness never leave you**
- Matthew 25:14-30 - Parable of the Talents**
- Revelation 2:10 - faithful until death, receive the crown of life**

Lessons for Us Today

2. Trusting God's Promises

- **2 Peter 3:9 - Lord is not slack concerning His promises**
- **Romans 4:19-21 - Abraham as our example**

Lessons for Us Today

3. Endurance in Trials

- James 1:2-4 - joy when you fall into various trials**
- Philippians 4:13 - do all things through Christ**

Lessons for Us Today

4. Faithful in worship

- John 4:24 - worship in spirit**
- Colossians 3:16 - encourage one another**
- Hebrews 12:28 – serve God acceptably**

Lessons for Us Today

5. Faithful in serving others – show God’s love in action to those we serve

a. Example to our communities

b. By helping those in need, we fulfill the commandment to love our neighbors.

- Matthew 25:31-40 - final judgment scene**
- Mark 10:45 - Jesus came to serve**

Lessons for Us Today

6. Faithful in community - family

- Hebrews 10:24-25 - stir up love and good works**
- Romans 12:10 - brotherly love**

Lessons for Us Today

Jeremiah 10:23 NKJV

**O LORD, I know the way of man is not
in himself; It is not in man who walks
to direct his own steps.**