

Talk Notes

Introduction: Old Testament background

1. Assimilation

2. Loyal to God

3. God brings success

4. Applications

- a) Read your OT asking how it points to Jesus.
- b) Stay loyal to God in a foreign land.
- c) Trust that God is still in control during the difficult times.
- d) Trust in Jesus — the One who always stayed loyal.

The Book of Daniel

God's rule: The mighty ruler of all nations



Introduction

The Jews were sent into exile as punishment for their sins. Daniel's story is amazing and encouraging because it shows how God rules over nations that do not worship Him. As you read the stories in Daniel, learn to appreciate the greatness of God and how he uses Daniel and his friends to do his will.

Opening discussion

What is the difference between the Exodus and Exile in the Bible? Why did they happen?

Read the Passage: *Daniel 1.*

1. Historical Background. What background information can we collect from v1–2?

Read also 2 Kings 23:36–24:4. According to this passage, what is the exile and why did this tragic event happen?

Observations

2. Who did King Nebuchadnezzar bring to Babylon? What qualities did he look for? (v3–4)

3. What were the new names given to Daniel and his friends? Why do you think the King gave them new names? (v6–7)

4. What kind of treatment did the King give these young men? (v4–5)

5. How did Daniel and his friends respond to that treatment? Why did they respond like that? (v8)

6. What happened to Daniel and his friends when they did not eat the palace food? (v15)

7. How did God bless Daniel and his friends? (v17–21)

8. How was God involved in this story? (v9 and v17)

Why was this mentioned in the story?

9. How did God's involvement affect Daniel and his friends? (v18–20)

Meaning and Relevance

10. Who do you think is the main character and activist in this story?

- a. Nebuchadnezzar
- b. Daniel
- c. Daniel's friends
- d. God
- e. The King's chief commander

11. What can we learn about God's sovereignty and rule?

(Choose one or more answers below but give your reasons.)

- a. That God is very harsh and cruel to punish his own people.
- b. That God is a fearful God and must be taken seriously.
- c. That God does not care about his people.
- d. That God is not loving because He uses people like Daniel and his friends.
- e. That God doesn't know what He is doing.
- f. That God has a purpose for putting Daniel and his friends in exile.
- g. God is very strict about what people should eat and drink.
- h. God rewards those who are faithful to Him.

12. What aspect of God's character and promise will inspire you to live like Daniel and his friends?