

Daniel

"God Rules and Overrules"

(Daniel 1:1-21)

Kings At the Time of the Babylonian Captivity:

Josiah was the King from 640-609 BC and sought to lead the people back to God, however, the last four Kings of Judah were evil men, even though three were Josiah's sons and one (Jehoiachin) was his grandson. Jehoahaz, or Shallum, succeeded Josiah and reigned for three months. Pharaoh Necho had him deported to Egypt where he died. Jehoiakim, or Eliakim, ruled in Jerusalem for 11 years and died there. He was the King in 605 BC when Daniel was taken in the 1st deportation under Nebuchadnezzar. Jehoiakim was succeeded by his son Jehoiachin, also called, Coniah or Jeconiah. He also ruled for only three months. Nebuchadnezzar took him to Babylon in the 2nd deportation where he eventually died. The last King of Judah was Zedekiah who reigned 11 years and saw Jerusalem destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC. He was blinded and taken to Babylon to die in 586 BC in the 3rd deportation.

The Outline:

- A. Nebuchadnezzar's first expedition to Jerusalem (1:1-2)
- B. Daniel and his three Jewish companions (1:3-7)
- C. The abstention of Daniel and his Friends (1:8-16)
- D. The progress of the four Jewish youths and their entrance into the king's service (1:17-21)

The Date:

3rd year of Jehoiakim (1) which would have been 605 BC.

The Place:

Shinar (2), Another term for Babylon, about 500 miles east of Jerusalem on the Euphrates River.

The Key Players:**A-List**

- Nebuchadnezzar (2,18,19,20)
- The Lord/God (2, 9, 17)
- Ashpenaz/Chief of the Eunuchs (3,8,9,10,18)
- Daniel (6,8,9,10,11,17,19,21)/Belteshazzar (7)
- Hananiah (6,11,17,19)/Shadrach (7)
- Mishael (6,11,17,19)/Meshach (7)
- Azariah (6,11,17,19)/Abednego (7)
- Melzar [Steward] (11,14,16)

B-List

- Jehoiakim (1)
- The Chaldeans (4)
- Tribe of Judah (1,6)
- King Cyrus (21)

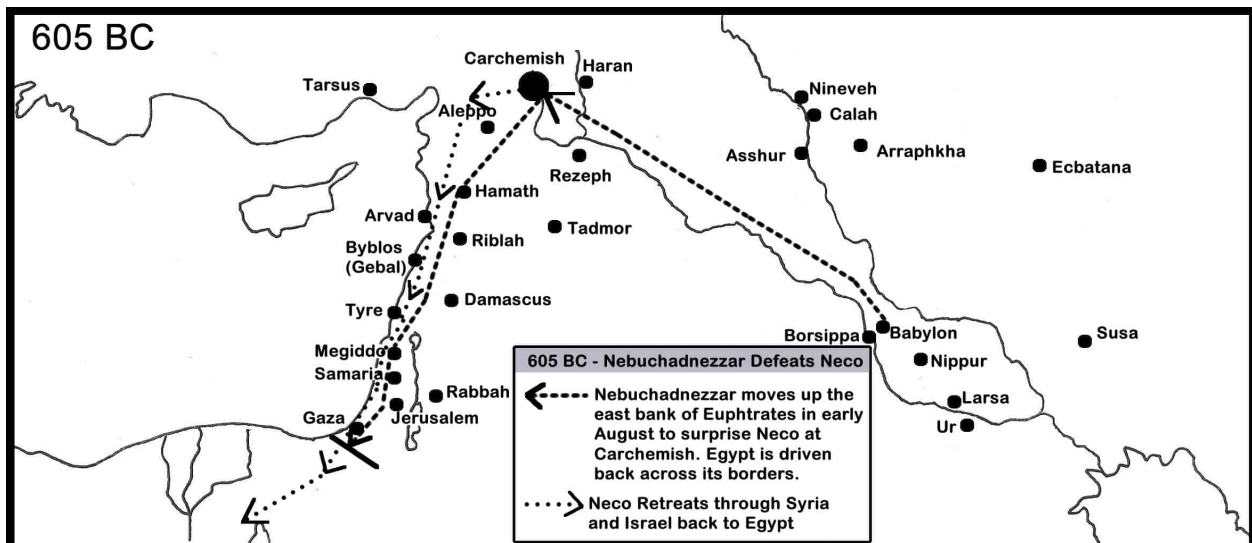
"God would rather have His people living in shameful captivity in a pagan land than living like pagans in the Holy Land and disgracing His name."

-Warren Wiersbe-

The Action:

1	Nebuchadnezzar attacks Jerusalem (v1).	10	Ashpenaz resisted Daniel's request (v10).
2	God gave Judah to Nebuchadnezzar (v2).	11	Daniel proposed a test to Melzar (v11-13).
3	Nebuchadnezzar takes vessels/people captive (v2).	12	Melzar did as Daniel had asked (v14).
4	Ashpenaz assigned to oversee captives (v3).	13	The test results were in Daniel's favor (v15).
5	Jewish youths enter 3-year training program (v3-5).	14	Melzar honored Daniel's request (v16).
6	The King assigned the youths his food (v5).	15	God gave the Jewish youths knowledge and skills (v17).
7	Jewish youths were given new names (v6-7).	16	God gave Daniel special abilities (v17).
8	Daniel resolved not to defile himself (v8).	17	The Jewish youths stood before the king (v18-19).
9	Daniel appealed to Ashpenaz, God gave him favor (v9).	18	The king found favor with the Jewish youths (v19-20).

The Area:



Name Changes:

<u>Jewish Name</u>	<u>True God Meaning</u>	<u>Babylonian Name</u>	<u>False God Meaning</u>
Daniel	God is Judge	Belteshazzar	May Bel protect his life
Hananiah	Yahweh is Gracious	Shadrach	A command of Aku (Moon God)
Mishael	Who is What God is	Meshach	Who is What Aku (Moon God) is
Azariah	Whom Yahweh Helps	Abednego	Servant of Nabo

Next Week: "The God of Dreams and Destinies (Daniel 2:1-49)"