

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS NOTES

FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL: Faithfulness In All Circumstances

- The Law specified that all the males were to appear at the place of the Lord's choosing for the three feasts: The Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles. [**Read Exod. 23:14-17; 34:23, 24; and Deut. 16:16.**] The most likely place for this gathering would be the Tabernacle/Temple due to the necessity of sacrifices and an altar.
- But Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians had besieged Judah and taken captives back to Babylon (**Dan. 1:1, 2**), including Daniel. Daniel and all the other Jewish men were far from their homeland and unable to keep the command noted above, and the other commands regarding sacrifices that were to be offered on the altar, which was back in Jerusalem at the site of the Temple.
- God would include Daniel among Job and Noah as examples of righteousness and a contrast to the unfaithfulness of Israel (**Ezek. 14:14-20**); this shows Daniel, even in this situation while captive in Babylon, was commendable in the sight of God. Daniel's circumstances may have changed and he was probably uncomfortable in his new life, but he never considered not serving God or keeping the Law.
- Even in these trying circumstances, Daniel and his faithful companions [Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego] did everything they could to remain faithful to God — in the circumstances. While in captivity and far from home, Daniel still refused to defile himself (**Dan. 1:3-17**); Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego refused to bow to the golden idol Nebuchadnezzar had made, and to which he had commanded all bow down and worship (**Dan. 3**); and Daniel continued praying to God three times a day as he always had, and this in spite of the decree from the Babylonian government that forbid it (**Dan. 6**).

QUESTIONS FOR CLASS AND DISCUSSION PERIOD

- How was Daniel's situation in Babylon similar to that of Joseph's while in Egypt? How was it different?
- What are some of the things we will have to do differently in the coming weeks, regarding our worship? Our Bible classes? Our interaction with one another?
- What can we do to make sure those who are more vulnerable have their needs taken care of?
- What are some things we can pray for, particularly during this period where there will be less social contact and businesses not operating?