

THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

CHAPTER 18 – DANIEL IN EXILE

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS

- ❶ What is God saying?
- ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God's grace and promises!)
- ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God's expectations for his people)
- ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

Key Events: Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream, three men in the fiery furnace, Daniel in the lion's den, the prophecy of Jeremiah.

DIGGING IN

- 1) Explain Daniel's request to only eat vegetables. What does tell us about Daniel's character? Think of a situation today when a believer may be asked to compromise his or her faith or values. Why is it important that a Christian stands up for he or she believes?
- 2) When Nebuchadnezzar had a strange dream Daniel was called upon to interpret it. Left out of the editor's summary of the dream was an important detail. Read **Daniel 2:31-45**. What would happen to all of the powerful kingdoms of the world? Which kingdom alone would endure?
- 3) In his explanation of the 1st Commandment Martin Luther wrote: "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things." How is the account of the fiery furnace (pages 254-256) an example of obedience to God's first commandment? Why were these men so confident?

- 4) The Babylonian empire was replaced by the Medo-Persian empire and Daniel became distinguished as a statesman once more. His enemies became jealous and devised a plot to use Daniel's faith against him. They convinced King Cyrus to issue a decree that stated that no one was to pray to any god or person except him for 30 days. Those who disobeyed would face death. What does Daniel's response to this decree tell us about his allegiance to the king and his allegiance to God?

- 5) Why did Daniel and his friends prosper as they did under the Babylonian and Persian kings?

- 6) After the time of captivity was over God promised to bring back a remnant of the people to Jerusalem. Through the prophet Jeremiah he said, "For I know the plans I have to you; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (pg 261) In what way do these words apply to us today? In what way do they not?

- 7) The events of this chapter teach us about faith. What is faith?

Chapter 19: The Return Home

Bible Reference: Ezra 1-6; Haggai 1-2; Zechariah 1; 8