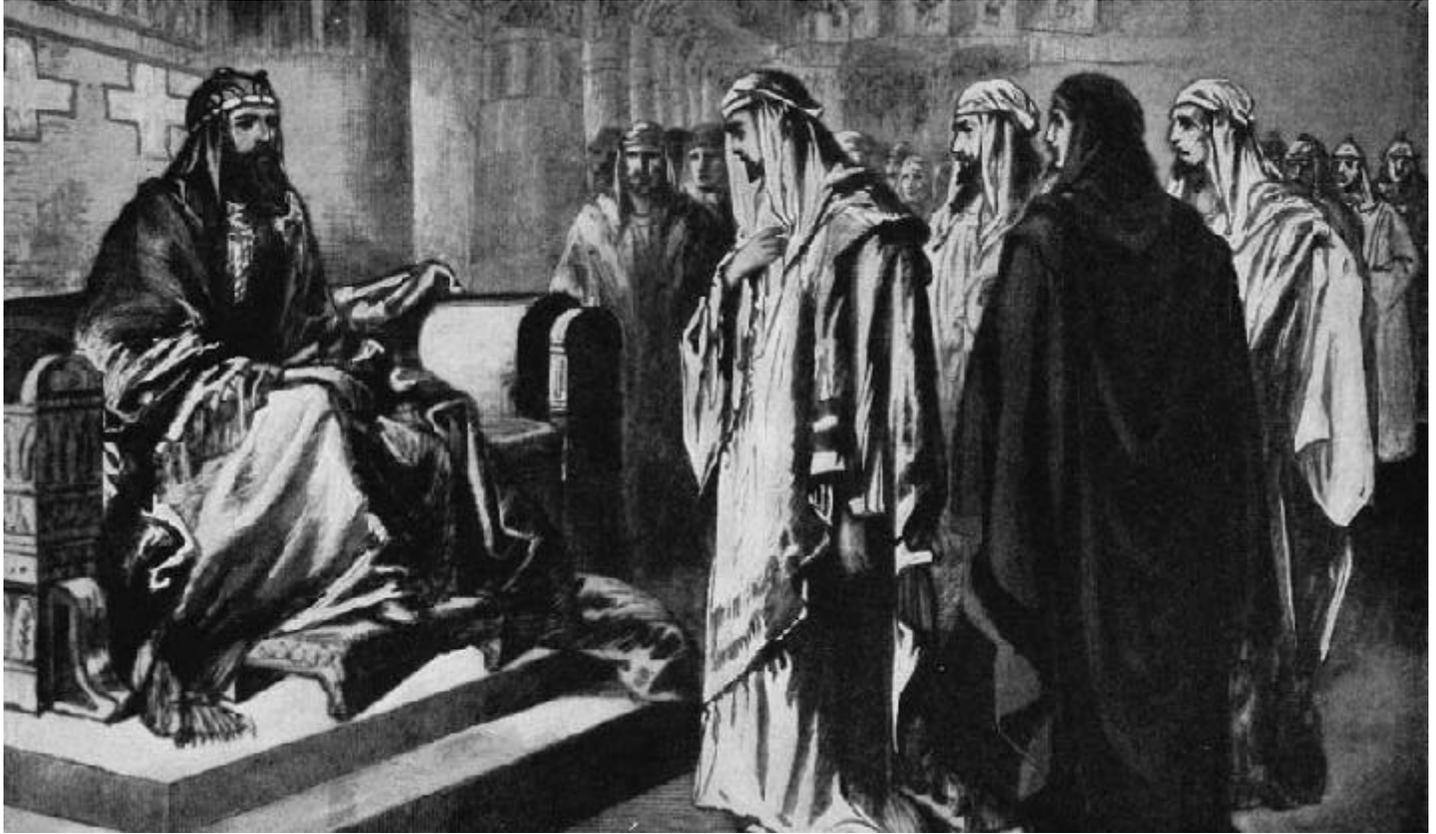


Daniel

Daniel 1 - 2



God was with Daniel and his friends in a strange country. God told Daniel the king's dream about the future of the kingdom of Babylon.



The Story

Great changes came in the life of a boy named Daniel and his three friends. First a large army from the land of Babylon carried them off from their home in Judah.

Then the king's servant chose them to live at the palace and learn the new language of this land. But the king wanted them to eat his meat and drink his wine. Daniel knew God would not want them to do this. God had made laws about what the children of Israel should eat and drink. He asked the king's servant, "Could we eat vegetables and drink water instead?"

The king's servant said, "If you look weak and sickly, the king may kill me."

Daniel said, "Just let us try it for ten days."

The king's servant agreed to the test. After ten days he was surprised to see that Daniel and his three friends looked healthier than the other boys that had been chosen to live in the palace. The servant allowed them to keep eating their simple food.

At the end of three years the king spoke with all the young men and found there were none like Daniel and his friends. After this they worked for the king and were ten times wiser than the older magicians and wise men at the king's court.

One night King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. It bothered him so much that he could not sleep. The next day he called his wise men and said, "Tell me what my dream meant."

"Tell us your dream," the wise men

said.

The king said, "Unless you tell me my dream and its meaning you will be killed and your houses destroyed."

Because none of the wise men could do such a thing the king became very angry and commanded all the wise men to be killed.

Daniel and his friends were some of the wise men. When they heard of the king's command they prayed to God for help. God showed Daniel the dream and its meaning.

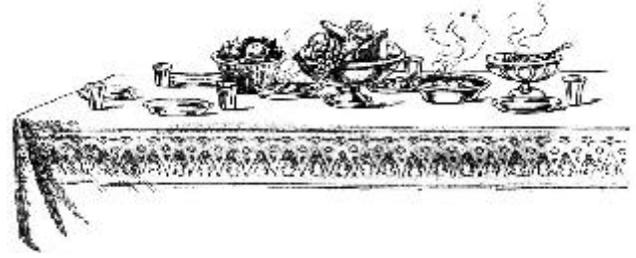
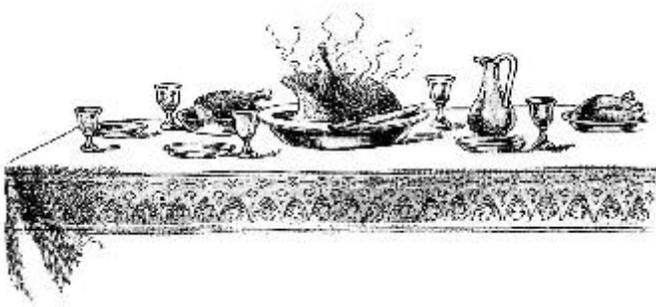
The next day Daniel went to the king and told him, "Only God can tell you the dream and its meaning."

"You dreamed of a great statue. Its head was gold, its arms and chest were silver, its belly and thighs were brass, its legs were iron and its feet were iron mixed with clay. A stone cut out without hands rolled into the feet of the statue and broke them. Then the whole statue fell, broke into pieces and was blown away by the wind. The stone grew into a great mountain and filled the earth.

The dream means that your kingdom is like the statue's gold head. After your kingdom, three weaker kingdoms will come. The final one will be the weakest. They will all be destroyed while the Kingdom of God will fill the whole earth."

King Nebuchadnezzar was thankful to know the meaning of his dream. He bowed down to Daniel, gave him gifts and made him and his three friends rulers in Babylon.

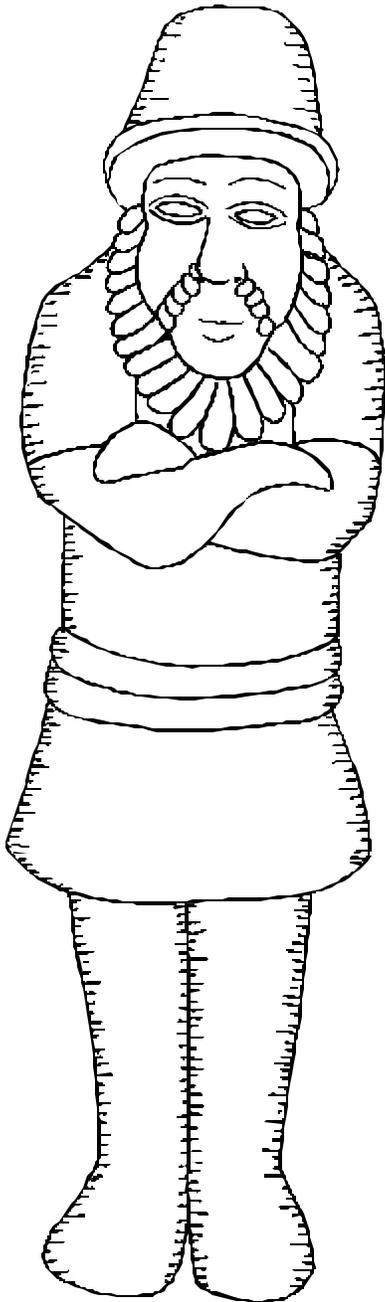
Activity One - Circle the table with the food Daniel and his friends ate. Put an X on the table of the king's food. Why couldn't Daniel and his friends eat that food?



Activity Two - Circle the Y if the answer is YES. Circle N if the answer is NO.

1. Daniel and his friends were taken from their home. **Y N**
2. Daniel ate what the king ordered them to eat. **Y N**
3. Daniel loved and obeyed God. **Y N**
4. The king told the wise men his dream. **Y N**
5. The wise men were all killed. **Y N**
6. God told Daniel the dream and what the dream meant. **Y N**
7. The stone destroyed the statue. **Y N**
8. The stone was small. **Y N**
9. God's kingdom will fill the earth. **Y N**

Activity Three - King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream about a statue. Draw a line to match the parts to what it was made



<----- .

. SILVER

<----- .

. IRON

. GOLD

<----- .

. BRASS

. IRON & CLAY

<----- .

<----- .

Although our nation and all nations will one day be destroyed, we are believers and members of the Kingdom of God and so shall live forever.

Passages

Luke 17:20-21 "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

Psalms 2:4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision.

Hymn - TLH 341 v. 1

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Thro' all eternity.

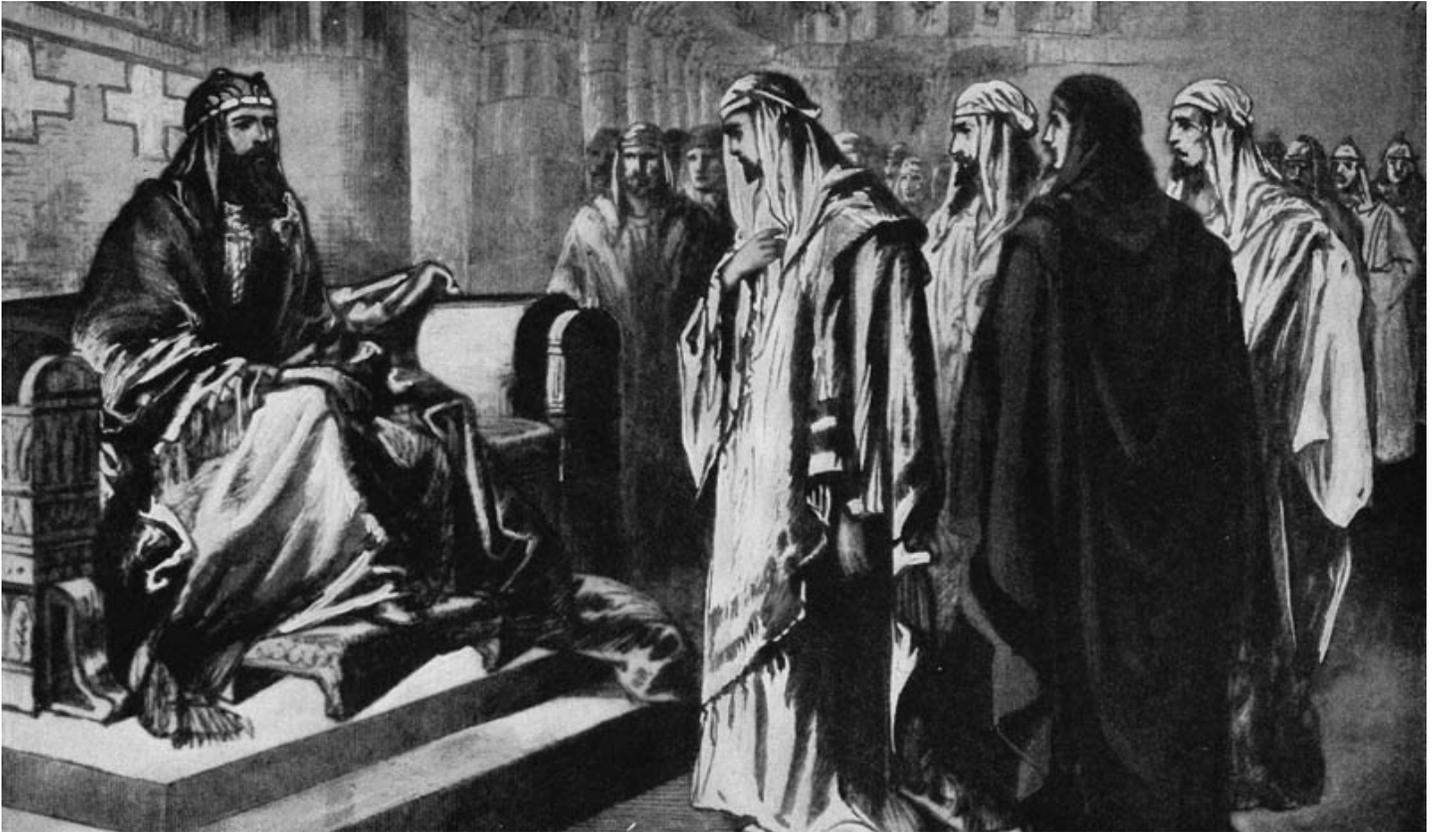
Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,

We have a great country. It may not always be as strong and powerful as it is today. We pray that You, Lord, will send us leaders who fear God and will lead our land according to Your will. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Daniel

Daniel 1 - 2



God was with Daniel and his friends in a strange country. God told Daniel the king's dream about the future of the kingdom of Babylon.



The Story

Daniel was a young boy from the land of Judah. He lived during the saddest days in history. His people had lost their country and their city and their temple. And worst of all, their God was very angry with them. But Daniel's faith in God was strong, even while he was a captive in Babylon. And there in the strange land, he received rich blessings from God.

When the army of King Nebuchadnezzar carried all the people away to Babylon, Daniel was taken too, along with his friends: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

The land of Babylon was different from the land of Judah. The people here did not know the true God. They worshipped false gods and used the gold and silver dishes and other treasures from God's temple to decorate the temples of their idols.

One day the king decided he should use some of the best young men from Judah to help in *his* kingdom. He ordered his head servant to choose the young men of Judah who were the most handsome, healthy, wise and intelligent. He was to bring them to the palace for three years to learn the king's Chaldean language. They were to eat the king's meat and drink his wine. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were among those chosen.

Melzar, the chief servant, noticed what a fine young man Daniel was. Daniel came to him with a request. Because in Israel God had forbidden the eating and drinking of certain foods, Daniel asked if he and his friends could eat only vegetables and drink only water.

Melzar was afraid of the king's anger. What if these four young men lost weight? The king might punish him, even put him to death.

Daniel begged Melzar to let them try this diet for ten days. After the ten days, Melzar was surprised to see that Daniel and

his friends looked healthier than the other young men who had eaten the king's food. He therefore allowed the four young men to continue eating vegetables and drinking water for the rest of their time at the palace.

At the end of three years, the king met with all the chosen young men from Judah. Because God had given Daniel and his friends knowledge and wisdom, none could compare with them. The king chose them to work as wise men in his kingdom.

One night King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. It bothered him so much that he couldn't sleep after the dream. The next morning he gathered all his Babylonian wise men, magicians and astrologers. He commanded them to tell him what he had dreamed about, and then to tell him the meaning of the dream.

They were shocked when the king asked them to tell him not only the meaning of the dream but also the dream itself.

The men protested, "No man can do that. Just tell us the dream and then we will tell you what it means."

The king answered, "If you are so wise, you will know what I dreamed about. You're just stalling for time."

The king became very angry and ordered all the wise men of Babylon to be destroyed. This included Daniel and his friends.

When Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, found Daniel, Daniel asked that the king give him time and he would tell him the meaning of the dream. Daniel and his friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, prayed to God for help.

During the night God showed Daniel the dream and its meaning. Daniel blessed and thanked God. Then he went to Arioch, the man who had been appointed to execute all the wise men and said to him,

“Do not destroy the wise men. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him.”

So Arioch took Daniel to the king. Daniel stood before the king and said, “Your secret dream is impossible for any man to know. But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. This God is telling you what will happen to your kingdom. ”

“What you saw was a gigantic statue, an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. Its head was pure gold, its breast and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were brass, its legs were iron and its feet were partly of iron and partly of clay. While you were watching a stone was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.”

Then Daniel explained the dream.

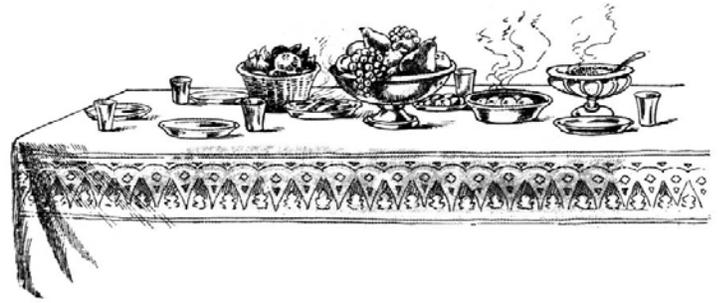
“You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you power and might and glory. In your hands he has placed humankind. Wherever men and women live, you are ruler over them. After you, another

kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron - for iron breaks and smashes everything-and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands – a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is correct.”

The king bowed down to Daniel. He said, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries for you were able to reveal this mystery.” Then the king placed Daniel in a powerful position and gave him many gifts. He made Daniel ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. He also appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to be administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel remained at the royal court.

**Although our nation and all nations will one day be destroyed,
we are believers and members of the
Kingdom of God and so shall live forever.**

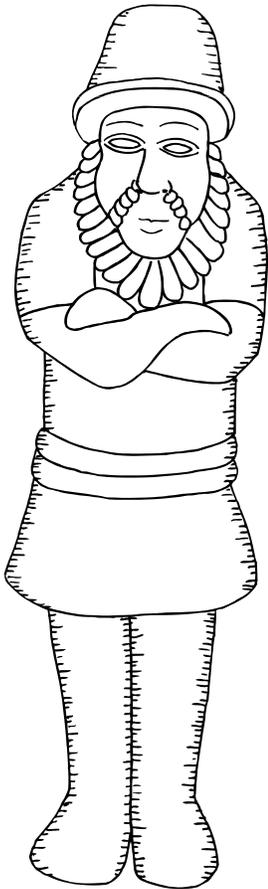
Activity One - Circle the table with the food Daniel and his friends ate. Put an X on the table of the king's food. Why couldn't Daniel and his friends eat that food?



Activity Two - Put the correct letter in the blank.

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. ____ Daniel and his friends were taken to the land of ____. | A. Statue |
| 2. ____ The king wanted the young men to eat ____. | B. Babylon |
| 3. ____ Daniel and his friends wanted to obey ____. | C. God |
| 4. ____ When they ate vegetables they looked ____. | D. Stone |
| 5. ____ King Nebuchadnezzar had a ____. | E. Prayed |
| 6. ____ The king commanded his wise men to tell him it and the ____. | F. Dream |
| 7. ____ The king ordered the wise men ____ since they couldn't tell. | G. Rich food |
| 8. ____ Daniel and his friends ____ to God for help. | H. Healthy |
| 9. ____ Daniel told the king about the great ____ he dreamed of. | I. Earth |
| 10. ____ The dream told the ____ of Babylon. | J. Meaning |
| 11. ____ A ____ cut without hands would destroy the statue. | K. Killed |
| 12. ____ The Kingdom of God would fill the ____. | L. Future |

Activity Three - Write the answer on the line.



←-----

←-----

←-----

←-----

←-----

silver

iron & clay

gold

iron

bronze

Passages

Luke 17:20-21 "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

Psalms 2:4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision.

Hymn - TLH 341 v. 1

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Thro' all eternity.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,
We know that all things on this earth
work together for our heavenly good.
Please guide and keep leaders of our land
so they follow in Your ways. Please help us
to always follow You and forgive us when
we fall. In Jesus' name. Amen.

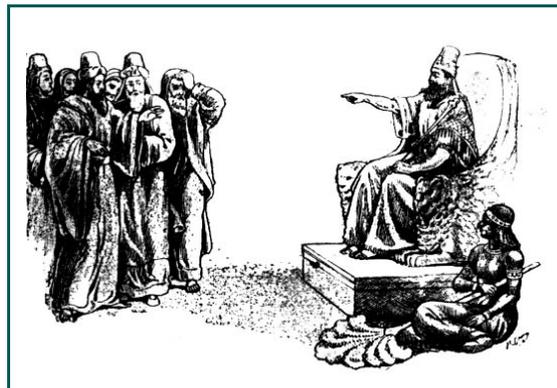
Daniel

Daniel 1 - 2

What does a king rule over? Who is our King?
What does He rule?

Prayer

Dear Lord, bless our study of Your Word today. Send us Your Holy Spirit to help us hear Your Word. Cause us to know more fully our Savior from sin, Jesus Christ. Amen.



The Story - Daniel 1-2

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. {2} And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

{3} Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, {4} young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. {5} And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.

{6} Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. {7} To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

{8} But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the

king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. {9} Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. {10} And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king."

{11} So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, {12} "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. {13} "Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants." {14} So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.

{15} And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. {16} Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

{17} As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and



wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

{18} Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. {19} Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. {20} And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

{21} Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.

(Daniel 2) Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him. {2} Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. {3} And the king said to them, "I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream."

{4} Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation."

{5} The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap. {6} "However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation."

{7} They answered again and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation."

{8} The king answered and said, "I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm: {9} "if you do not make known the dream to me, there is only one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation."

{10} The Chaldeans answered the king, and

said, "There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. {11} "It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."

{12} For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave a command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. {13} So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.

{14} Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon; {15} he answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, "Why is the decree from the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel. {16} So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.

{17} Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, {18} that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. {19} Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven. {20} Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. {21} And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. {22} He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. {23} "I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king's demand."

{24} Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation."

{25} Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel

before the king, and said thus to him, "I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation."

{26} The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?"

{27} Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. {28} "But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:

{29} "As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. {30} "But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

{31} "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. {32} "This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, {33} "its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. {34} "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. {35} "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

{36} "This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. {37} "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; {38} "and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all; you are this head of gold. {39} "But after you shall arise

another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. {40} "And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. {41} "Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. {42} "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. {43} "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

{44} "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. {45} "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

{46} Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. {47} The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret."

{48} Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. {49} Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

Outer Aim – Earthly kingdoms rise and fall; the Kingdom of God destroys all earthly kingdoms and shall stand forever.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the blank with the correct word or words.

1. Nebuchadnezzar brought young men from Israel to Babylon to train them; among them were the following four men: _____, _____, _____, and _____.
2. Daniel asked the chief eunuch for just _____ and _____ to eat and drink for ten days.
3. After the ten days Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednigo, appeared in better _____ than all the other young men.
4. When King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, he commanded his _____ and _____ to tell him what his dream meant.
5. None could, so the king decided to have all of the wise men _____, including Daniel.
6. _____ revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel.
7. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar his dream: In the dream there was a large statue. The head was of _____, the _____ and _____ were of silver, the belly and thighs were of _____, the legs were of _____, and the _____ were a mixture of iron and clay.
8. Daniel explained that the statue represented the _____ of this world.
9. The stone "cut without hands" that destroyed the statue and grew to fill the earth was the Kingdom of _____.

What God's Word Tells Us - Mark the following statements as true or false.

1. ____ Since our country is the strongest in the world at this time, it will last forever.
2. ____ God has no control over all earthly kingdoms.
3. ____ The Kingdom of God is Christ ruling in the hearts of believers.
4. ____ The earth and everything on it will be destroyed on Judgement Day.
5. ____ As members of the Kingdom of God, we will enjoy everlasting life.

Inner Aim – Although our nation and all nations will one day be destroyed, we are believers and members of the Kingdom of God and so shall live forever.

Passages

Luke 17:20-21 "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

Psalms 2:4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision.

Hymn - TLH 341 v. 1, 5

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Thro' all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of Heaven,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to whom is given
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is King of all.

Your Turn - Think back on the Outer and Inner Aims of the story, the passages, and the Hymn verses. How might you use what you have learned to comfort someone who is worried about what is happening in the world today?

Prayer

O Lord,

You have taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom Come". With these words You have taught us to pray to the Holy Spirit for growth of our faith in Christ and love towards all. You have also taught us to pray for Your final victory over all the kingdoms of the world. Amen.

Daniel

Daniel 1 - 2

What is a kingdom?
What is the Kingdom of God?

Prayer

Dear Lord, bless our study of Your Word today. Send us Your Holy Spirit to help us hear Your Word. Cause us to know more fully our Savior from sin, Jesus Christ. Amen.



The Story - Daniel 1-2

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{3} Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, {4} young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. {5} And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.

{6} Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and

Azariah. {7} To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

{8} But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. {9} Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. {10} And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king."

{11} So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, {12} "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. {13} "Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who



eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants." {14} So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.

{15} And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. {16} Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

{17} As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

{18} Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. {19} Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. {20} And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

{21} Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.

(Daniel 2) Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him. {2} Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. {3} And the king said to them, "I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream."

{4} Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation."

{5} The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its

interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap. {6} "However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation."

{7} They answered again and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation."

{8} The king answered and said, "I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm: {9} "if you do not make known the dream to me, there is only one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation."

{10} The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, "There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. {11} "It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."

{12} For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave a command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. {13} So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.

{14} Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon; {15} he answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, "Why is the decree from the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel. {16} So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.

{17} Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah,

Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, {18} that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. {19} Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven. {20} Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. {21} And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. {22} He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. {23} "I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king's demand."

{24} Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation."

{25} Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, "I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation."

{26} The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?"

{27} Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. {28} "But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:

{29} "As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. {30} "But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

{31} "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. {32} "This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, {33} "its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. {34} "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. {35} "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

{36} "This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. {37} "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; {38} "and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all; you are this head of gold.

{39} "But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. {40} "And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and

crush all the others. {41} "Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. {42} "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. {43} "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

{44} "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. {45} "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the

bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

{46} Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. {47} The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret."

{48} Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. {49} Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

Outer aim – Earthly kingdoms rise and fall; the Kingdom of God destroys all earthly kingdoms and shall stand forever.

What the Story Tells Us - Recall details from the lesson and answer the following questions.

1. Why were young men of Israel brought to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar?
2. Who were four of the young Israelite men?
3. Why did Daniel ask to eat only vegetables and drink only water?
4. After the ten days, how had God blessed Daniel and the other three?
5. How did God additionally bless Daniel and the other three after their training was over?
6. When King Nebuchadnezzar had his troubling dream, what did he command his wise men to do?
7. When the wise men could not interpret the dream, what did Nebuchadnezzar do?
8. How did God give Daniel a way to spare his and his friends lives?

9. Before Daniel told the king the interpretation of his dream, how did Daniel give all glory to God?
10. In your own words, tell King Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
11. Match the items in the king's dream with the earthly kingdoms they represent.

Head of gold -	- Greek Empire
Chest and arms of silver -	- Babylonian Empire
Belly and thighs of bronze -	- Early Roman Empire
Legs of iron -	- Later Roman Empire
Feet of iron and clay -	- Medo-Persian Empire
12. What did the stone "cut without hands" represent?

What God's Word Tells Us - Discuss the following.

1. As King Nebuchadnezzar's dream represented, what will happen to all kingdoms of this world?
2. How did the fact that Daniel, rather than the other wise men, was allowed to interpret the king's dream show that God is in charge of the kingdoms of this world?
3. After the stone "cut without hands" (the kingdom of God) destroyed the statue, it grew larger and became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. How is this a picture of mission work?
4. Why can you be sure that you, a child of God, will live forever in heaven?

Inner Aim – Although our nation and all nations will one day be destroyed, we are believers and members of the Kingdom of God and so shall live forever.

Your Turn - How might you use Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednigo as role models in your life today?

Passages - Discuss how the following passages fit today's lesson.

Luke 17:20-21 "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; {21} "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

Psalms 2:4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision.

Hymn - TLH 341 v. 1, 5

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Thro' all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of Heaven,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to whom is given
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is King of all.

Prayer

O Lord, you have taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom Come". With these words you have taught us to pray to the Holy Spirit for growth of our faith in Christ and love towards all. You have also taught us to pray for Your final victory over all the kingdoms of the world. Amen.



STORY

Daniel - Daniel 1-2

7/31/03

TEACHER PRAYER

O Lord, You have taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom Come." You have thereby taught us to petition the Holy Spirit for growth of faith in Christ and love towards all. But you have also taught us to pray for Your final victory over all the Kingdom of the world.

VOCABULARY

Kingdom- not a local or static concept, but His worldwide regal rule in the hearts of believers and the nations.

OUTER AIM

Earthly kingdoms rise and fall; The KINGDOM OF GOD destroys all earthly kingdoms and shall stand forever.

INNER AIM

Although our nation and all nations will one day be destroyed, we are believers and members of the Kingdom of God and so shall live forever.

BACKGROUND

1. The setting for the book of Daniel is the time of indignation, of judgment upon Israel. The Ten Northern Tribes had been destroyed and deported. The judgments, announced by Jeremiah, were about to fall on Judah.
2. There is always mercy in the midst of judgment. The Jews tended to identify the KINGDOM OF GOD with the nation of Israel. When Judah and Jerusalem with the temple fell, it appeared as though the KINGDOM was being destroyed.
3. Note that there were three deportations--at the time of Jehoakim (II Chron. 36:5-8). Daniel and his three friends were beneficiaries of that first deportation. The second under Jehoiachin (II Chron.36:9-10) Ezekiel was the beneficiary of that deportation. Final deportation occurred under Zedekiah--586. Daniel, his friends, and Ezekiel were spared the horrors of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. The man who bestowed these blessings was the same man who was the instrument of judgment upon Israel. While the KINGDOM seemed to be destroyed, the destroyer was the agent for the "underground" onward march of the KINGDOM--Nebuchadnezzar.

Themes:

- You're never too young or too old to bear witness to your faith!
- Teenagers: Use Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as role models.
- God always tests the faith of His own.

STUDENT PRAYER

Lord, send me Your Holy Spirit that I may grow in grace and knowledge.

PRESENTATION

Chapter 1 - Confessing: Daniel made a great confession as he took the initiative by taking his case to the chief of the eunuchs who passed it on to his steward. The steward approved a ten-day trial of a menu of vegetables and water.

Daniel and his friends appeared more healthy than the young men who had dined at the king's table. Note the character traits of Daniel--always a gentleman, humble, gracious, honest, sociable, able to project himself without tooting his own horn.

Chapter 2 - Nebuchadnezzar's Dream - The learned members of Nebuchadnezzar's cabinet, all of whom were spiritual quacks, were unable to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream, especially since he did not tell them his dream. (There is a difference of opinion as to whether Nebuchadnezzar forgot his dream or simply would not reveal it in order to get a true interpretation of the dream.) Nebuchadnezzar's most learned men declared it to be impossible for anyone to interpret a dream without knowing what the dream is, v 10. The demand of Nebuchadnezzar and the response of his learned men reveal the bankruptcy of heathenism. Nebuchadnezzar's solution: execute all his wise men on the grounds of their ignorance.

Nebuchadnezzar's dream revealed and interpreted--Daniel and his friends were under the death sentence, but Daniel requested time through Arioch. Note again Daniel's relationship with people in high places in Nebuchadnezzar's government. Note also how the Lord moved Arioch to heed the request of Daniel. Arioch no doubt knew that Nebuchadnezzar was more interested in learning the interpretation of the dream than in executing his wise men. Daniel and his friends took the matter to the Lord in prayer.

The Lord revealed the secret. Daniel glorified and thanked his God, vs. 20-23. Arioch brought Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar, claiming that he had found a man among the captives who could interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Daniel again gave all glory and thanks to his God. Through the dream the Lord God would reveal the fate of the kingdoms of this world and their final destruction by the KINGDOM OF GOD. This flow of history was revealed to Nebuchadnezzar in the form of a great colossus. The head of gold--the neo-Babylonian Empire, the breast and arms of silver--the Medo-Persian Empire, the belly and thighs of bronze--the Grecian Empire, the legs and feet of iron/clay, the Roman Empire. Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom were represented by the head of gold. Subsequent kingdoms were represented by parts of the colossus. (It would be good to have a map available at this point to show the locations of the nations mentioned here.)

Then there appeared a stone, cut without hands which struck the image and destroyed it completely. STONE--see Ps.118:22 and Isaiah 28:16--the KINGDOM OF GOD, which became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Earthly kingdoms rise and fall; The KINGDOM OF GOD destroys all earthly kingdoms and shall stand forever.

APPLICATIONS

- The United States of America is the mightiest kingdom on the face of the earth at this time in history, but it's an earthly kingdom and doomed to destruction.
- As one empire replaced a former, the Lord was preparing His Kingdom, Daniel 2:44.
- Comfort--the Lord is always in complete control! Therefore "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the KINGDOM," Luke 12:32.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Luke 17:20-21 - The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, "See here!" or "See there!" For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.

Ps. 2:4 - He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision.

HYMN CHOICES

Crown Him with Many Crowns - TLH #341

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God - TLH #262