

# The Prophets & Kings

## From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

### Book 1

#### A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 52

## “Keeping His Promise”

**Study:** Jeremiah 51:1-14

**Reading:** Numbers 23:18-24, 2 Peter 3:1-13

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:20

Countless numbers of books and multiple movies have based their plot on the theme of someone keeping their promise. Some of these are about parents promising their children something and others are about children promising their parents something. Some have to do with promises made to a city or homeland and others have to do with promises made to a loved one or stranger. You probably have several books or movies running through your mind right now that are based on the premise of keeping a promise. In most of the stories, the characters are successful in keeping their word, but in others, they try and simply fall short.

These multiple stories with similar plots reveal some of the basic desires of human nature. One of these desires is that people do what they say they will do. Sadly, we as people can never be 100% when it comes to keeping our word, but God always keeps His Word.

### What Does the Bible Say?

Chapter 51 was all about the destruction of Babylon and chapter 52 continues with more information and affirmation of what had been said. It appears that a great deal of time was taken on this prophecy to emphasize the fact that it would take place. It must have seemed unreal to many of the people in those days since they had heard of and seen the great power of the Babylonian nation. The thought of them being destroyed must have been hard to grasp, but it was emphasized that it would happen. God was going to stir up a nation to fight against Babylon and the area of Chaldea. They were going to crush them like one would crush heads of grain as they came against the land from every side. The destroyers, the Medes and Persians, were not to leave any part of the army alive, but were to devote them all to destruction. The result would be death and destruction with dead and wounded soldiers lying all over in the streets. God was going to do this to them because of what they did to Israel. God was acting to reveal that He had not forgotten about His

chosen people (vs 1-5).

Those who wanted their lives spared would have to flee from Jerusalem. God was going to enact His vengeance upon the people and his vengeance would be severe. God had used Babylon like a golden cup full of wine to make all the world drunk, but now Babylon was going to be broken and many would wail for the great nation that was once gone.

Babylon was pictured as an injured person who some wanted to give medicine to, in hopes that the nation could be saved. The lead physician would declare that it was too late for healing and it was time to let the nation go. The punishment of God was too severe and there was no hope of recovery. This was a vindication from the Lord and was done so that the children of Israel could go back to their land. (vs 6-10).

Just as God predicted that it would be Babylon who would destroy Judah, He also made it clear that it was the Medes and Persians who would bring destruction to Babylon. God was going to specifically use the king of the Medes as the aggressor to fulfill His plan against Babylon. They were a great city full of riches and great commerce, but their time was coming to an end. The city would be overtaken by multitudes of soldiers who would be victorious over the city that once felt it was invincible (vs 11-14).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you realize how much God cares for and loves His children? Do you recognize the fact that God will keep His word and the covenants that He makes with His people? Throughout the prediction of the judgement of Babylon is scattered reminders of why this judgement was taking place. God was remembering his commitment to His people and was judging those who brought harm to His children. Even though God has raised up Babylon to bring judgment on Israel, God was not going to forget about Israel and the promises that He made to them. You can rest assured that the promises God made to you will be fulfilled. Though God dealt with the Israelites differently than He deals with the church today, the character of God is still the same and He will keep His promises to you, just as He kept the promises He made to Israel.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

\* *Thank God for always fulfilling His promises.*

\* *Ask God to help you to trust that He will keep His word.*

What was God going to stir up (vs 1)?

What did God say He was going to send to the land (vs 2)?

What do you think He meant by this?

Who were they not to spare (vs 3)? Why not?

Why do you think we are told their will be dead people in the streets (vs 4)?

Why did God say He was doing this (vs 5)?

What were people encouraged to do (vs 6)?

What do you think is meant by “the time of the Lord’s vengeance” (vs 6 - ESV)?

How was Babylon pictured (vs 7)? Why?

Why is it emphasized that the fall of Babylon would be sudden and quick (vs 8)?

What did verse 9 reveal about the hope of Babylon?

Why did God do all this to Babylon (vs 10)?

Who was God raising up to accomplish His plan (vs 11)?

Why is the temple mentioned (vs 11)?

What does this reveal about God’s love for His children?

What does verse 12 emphasize about the plan of God?

How was Babylon pictured (vs 13)?

What does verse 14 reveal about the size of the attack on Babylon?

# “God The Creator”

**Study:** Jeremiah 51:15-40

**Reading:** Genesis 1:1-31

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:20

**M**y dad really enjoyed computers and was highly involved with them for much of his adult life. We were one of the first families in our school to have a computer at home. and when I went to college, I was one of the only students to actually have a portable computer. I developed a love for technology, though mine was much more of a practical love. While my dad was very interested in how a computer worked and computer languages, I was much more interested in the practical application of how to make a computer benefit me. I actually don't care much about how a computer works, but love using the computer to make my life easier and better.

Today, we are going to be reminded about the power of God. We will see that we don't need to try to understand the existence of God, but can greatly enjoy all the benefits that He has to offer.

## What Does the Bible Say?

Verse 14 described how God would get the victory over Babylon. He would be able to do this because He was the One who made the earth through His power. In His wisdom and understanding He designed and created all that we see around us. At the sound of His voice great storms arise and cease. This powerful control over nature is far superior to even the wisest of men. Compared to God, every man is foolish and sadly, most men put their trust in the things that they build themselves. The idols and man made inventions are worthless when God chooses to act. God is much greater than any man or anything that men can imagine or create. He is the One who made all things and formed all things and by His prerogative, He chose Israel to be His people (vs 15-19).

Just as God chose to use Nebuchadnezzar, He was going to use Cyrus of Persia to be His “weapon of war.” God was going to give the Medo-Persian army the ability to break down the great army and defenses of the Babylonian empire. This power was going to allow Cyrus a clear and decisive victory (vs 20-23).

God was going to repay Babylon for all they had done to Israel and the people of Israel would be able to clearly see God fulfilling His Word. Babylon was referred to as a “destroying mountain” which destroyed a great amount of the civilized world, yet they would not last. They would become like a mountain that crumbled and burned. They would not be a building block for other future nations, but would be left a wasteland (vs 24-26).

Verse 27 starts a paragraph picturing how opposing nations would be called up for battle. People from the land of the Medes and the land of the Persians were called to unite together to take on Babylon. This was the Lord's purpose and because He desired this He would give them the victory and make Babylon desolate. The power and strength of the great nation would be broken down as messengers would be continually sent to the king of Babylon describing the fall of city after city. The beating that Babylon took was compared to someone threshing wheat on a threshing floor (vs 27-33).

One of the main reasons for the destruction of Babylon is the way they treated Israel. They had crushed Israel and had exalted themselves and their gods as greater. God was going to hear the pleas of His people and take up their cause. They would become drunk with their own wealth and success and not be able to defend themselves when the time of destruction came. They would be like lambs that were being led to the slaughter, not knowing what was about to come (vs 34-40).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize how powerful God is? One of the reasons that the teaching of evolution is so harmful is that it undermines the great power of God. Theories like theistic evolution which states that God started the evolutionary process do great harm to the view of the power of God. Scripture is clear in so many places, not just in Genesis, that God is the Creator of the Word and with the sound of His voice He can do as He pleases. There is no need to dumb down the power of God in order to make it fit with man made theories. Instead of trying to explain creation or how God made things work, you should be in awe of Him and His power to be able to make all that He made. It is foolish to trust in man made ideas or man made objects. God simply wants you to trust in Him and His power.



How did God make the earth (vs 15)?

How is the wisdom of God displayed in creation (vs 15)?

What can the voice of God do (vs 16)?

What does verse 16 reveal about the power and control of God?

How are men described (vs 17)? Why?

How are the works of men, specifically idols created by men described (vs 18)?

What did God do for Israel (vs 19)?

How is God different than the false gods of the world?

How was Cyrus and the Persian army described (vs 20)?

What was God going to do to Babylon (vs 21-23)?

How was God going to repay Babylon (vs 24)? Why?

How was Babylon described (vs 25)?

What does verse 27 picture?

Why did the earth tremble (vs 29)?

Why does it say that the soldiers of Babylon had become like women (vs 30)?

What was the message of the messengers (vs 31-32)?

Why was Babylon going to be punished (vs 33-37)?

How would Babylon be like lambs (vs 39)?

What did the actions of the Babylonians reveal (vs 40)?

## “A Crumbling Foundation”

**Study:** Jeremiah 51:41-64

**Reading:** Psalm 127:1-5, 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:20

Surrounding the traditional tomb of Abraham in Hebron are walls that were built by Herod the Great over 2000 years ago. The fact that these walls are still standing and the structure is in use today is an amazing testament to the architectural prowess of Herod the Great. One of the great keys to the success of this structure is that it was built on a solid and firm foundation.

Today, we are going to see how the great city of Babylon was destroyed, even though they would have thought they were invincible. The foundation of their nation was built on cruelty and pride. This foundation was faulty and led to their downfall.

### What Does the Bible Say?

The city of Babylon would have been the most famous and wealthiest city the world had known. Yet, this city and its greatness would be short lived. The city would be beaten and battered, like the shores of the sea after being beaten continually by waves. The land would become barren and a place where people would not want to be. Bel, one of the chief gods in Babylon, would be shown to be a false and inept god (vs 41-44).

The Israelites were told to be prepared to flee from Babylon when the coming destruction was near. They would hear reports from time to time about opposing armies, but many of those would be false. Eventually, one would be true and the Israelites would be set free. This is most likely not a command to run for their lives, but more of a picture of how they didn't have to fear because the day was coming when they would be set free from the Babylonian empire. This destruction of Babylon was to accomplish two things. It would judge the Babylonians for the way they treated Israel, and it would also be used to liberate Israel and allow the people to go back to their land. In this process, the people of Israel were called to remember how Jerusalem had fallen because of their sin. This was written before Jerusalem had been destroyed, but Jeremiah wanted them to know that this was all going to take place in the near future. The

temple would soon be destroyed and Babylon would powerfully rule until they were destroyed as well (vs 45-53).

The next verses summarize what had just been declared over the last few chapters as it described once again that the city of Babylon would be annihilated. The great boasting of the Babylonians would be no more because God was going to fully repay them for their evil deeds. The leaders would be removed and killed as God would show them who truly was in control. Though the thick walls were a foundational defense of the marvelous city, they were no match for God and for His power (vs 54-58).

It is uncertain exactly when this message was given to Israel, but we are told that Jeremiah sent this message about the Babylonian destruction to Babylon in the fourth year of the reign of Zedekiah, around 594 B.C. Jeremiah wanted to make sure that Nebuchadnezzar understood that God was the One who was in control. After the message was read, the messenger Seraiah was to tie the scroll to a stone and throw it in a river. This was to illustrate the way that Babylon would sink and never rise again (vs 59-64).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

It is easy to overlook how great and powerful the Babylonian army was and how magnificent their cities were. At the time this was written, it would have been greatly difficult to imagine the fall of such a powerful nation. The magnificence of the city of Babylon would have been something to behold and caused most travelers to be in awe of what humans were able to accomplish. This is not much different than the attitude of many people today who are in awe of what we as humans are able to do. Whether it is medical, technological, architectural, or warfare advances, it is very easy to be amazed at what we as humans can accomplish. It is easy to think that things will always be this way and that we can't be stopped. Yet, history reveals that many societies have felt that way. They were successful for a short time, but today's successes don't guarantee tomorrow's victories. The only true success that lasts is success that comes from building your foundations on the Word of God. When you do this, you will be successful for now and for all eternity.

What would Babylon become (vs 41)?

What was the destruction of Babylon compared to (vs 42)?

What do you think verse 44 means?

What were the exiles told to do (vs 45)?

What were they not to do (vs 46)?

What days were coming (vs 47)?

What would be the response when Babylon fell (vs 48)?

Why were the captives supposed to think about Jerusalem (vs 50)?

How was Israel shamed (vs 51)?

What would not stop God (vs 52-53)?

What was God going to stop (vs 54-55)?

Why was God going to do this (vs 56)?

What was going to happen to the leaders of Babylon (vs 57)?

What was going to be destroyed (vs 58)? Why do you think this is mentioned?

What did Jeremiah do with this prophecy (vs 59)?

What did Jeremiah want done with the words he had written (vs 61)?

What was the messenger to do when he finished reading (vs 63)?

What was going to happen to Babylon (vs 64)?

Why do you think he instructed this to take place (vs 64)?

# “Laying Down Your Life”

**Study:** Jeremiah 36:1-8, Jeremiah 45

**Reading:** Matthew 10:34-42, Mark 10:17-31

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:20

**W**hen I pastored in Wisconsin, my desire was to be at that church for the rest of my life. I loved the people of the church and things were going very well in the church. We were near my wife’s family and lived in a large, newer parsonage which was provided free of charge. Things were going well for us when God called us to move over to Michigan to start a new ministry. The time we spent praying through our choice and decision was both scary and exciting. We were being called to move from something that we knew, and were comfortable with, to a new ministry full of unknowns. Little did we know that what God had in store for us was better than the great situation we had come out of. God proved Himself faithful to us over and over again and is still surprising us with new blessings day by day.

Today, we are going to read how God called Baruch to do something very difficult, but it would also be very rewarding.

## What Does the Bible Say?

Jeremiah stated that God spoke this message to him in the fourth year of king Jehoiakim which would have been around the end of 605 B.C. He was told to write down all the prophecies that he had been given from when he started his ministry as a prophet until that current day. God wanted to make sure that Judah knew what His plans were and to give them another opportunity to repent and turn back to Him (vs 1-3).

To accomplish this, Jeremiah asked Baruch to write down the words as he dictated them. By this time, the religious leaders (and possibly the political ones as well) had banned Jeremiah from being at the temple so his plan was to have Baruch do his work for him. Baruch was to go on a special day of fasting that appears to have been appointed in an attempt to avert the impending attack of Babylon. It is interesting that they were holding this day in attempt to get God to come down and help them. Jeremiah used this day to make it clear that God was not going to help them unless they repented of their sin. This was a prime time for the

prophecies to be read since people from all over would gather at the temple on that day. The hope was that the people would listen to the Word of God and choose to turn from their wickedness towards God. The words of Jeremiah would have made it clear to the people that they were about to face the great wrath of God. Baruch did as Jeremiah requested, but the people failed to listen to the message that was given (vs 4-8).

Chapter 45 gives us a little more information about what Baruch would have been going through during this time. He knew that Jeremiah was banned from the temple for this same message he was about to read. A message of destruction and a message of condemnation. He knew that most likely the people would not take this message well and that he was putting his life in danger by partnering together with Jeremiah. God sent a special message to Baruch letting him know that his internal struggle was noticed. God assured Baruch that He would be with him each step of the way. Yes, God was going to bring great judgement to Jerusalem and this is what Baruch was to declare. He encouraged Baruch not to seek for great things for his own life, but to submit to God’s plan for him. If he chose to lay down his life and do what God wanted him to do, Baruch was promised that God would spare his life in return (vs 1-5).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you willing to submit your life to Christ? Surrender to God is often a hurdle that keeps many people from becoming followers and it also keeps many followers from experiencing God’s great plan for their lives. This is because most men have human hopes and dreams that they want to fulfill, and sometimes, doing things God’s way means that those desires may never come true. Yet, throughout Scripture you are told that when you are willing to lay your life down for the cause of Christ you will be rewarded. That reward will look different for different people. Some people are rewarded with experiencing an early death and getting to see their Savior sooner. Others are rewarded by seeing their plans and desires fulfilled, while others are rewarded by plans way different than their own that they enjoy much more than they would have their own desires. God made it clear to Baruch that if he was willing to lay his life on the line for Him, that he would be protected through all the destruction that took place in Judah. Carrying out God’s plan and will involves surrender and sacrifice, but the rewards are well worth it.

What year was this message given (vs 1)?

What was significant about this year?

*\*\*\*This was the year of the first invasion by Nebuchadnezzar into Judah and Jerusalem. This was the first of three invasions by the Babylonians. The other two being in 597 B.C. and that last being in 586 B.C. when Jerusalem was completely destroyed.*

What did God tell Jeremiah to do (vs 2)?

Why would this have been a daunting task (vs 2)?

*\*\*\*Jeremiah started his ministry in 627 B.C. and it was now 605 B.C. That meant 22 years of prophecies would need to be written down.*

Why did God want Jeremiah to do this (vs 3)?

What does this show about the grace and mercy of God?

Who did Jeremiah call to help him (vs 4)?

Why couldn't Jeremiah deliver this message himself (vs 5)?

What was Baruch instructed to do (vs 6-7)?

What did Baruch do (vs 8)?

### **Jeremiah 45**

How did Baruch respond to what Jeremiah had asked him to do (vs 3)?

Why do you think he would have felt this way?

What did God say He was going to do to the land (vs 4)?

What was Baruch told not to seek after (vs 5)? Why not?

What would God give him as a reward for his obedience (vs 5)?

## ***“Following Instructions”***

**Study:** 2 Kings 24:1-4, Jeremiah 35:1-19

**Reading:** Luke 16:1-13

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:20

If you were to ask most employers or managers what characteristic they desire most among their employees, the majority of them would have faithfulness near the top of the list. When a person can be counted on to show up and do what they are supposed to do without having anyone watching over them or reminding them of what they need to do, they are considered a very valuable employee. Sadly, in our society, the character trait of faithfulness is seen less and less as people desire to do their own thing rather than to submit to the plans of their authorities.

Today, we are going to be challenged with the importance of living faithful lives.

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

In 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar invaded the land of Judah. Instead of putting up a fight or trying to defend the land, Jehoiakim thought it would be better to surrender and pay tribute. (It was during this first invasion that Daniel and many other choice young people from Judah were taken to Babylon.) Jehoiakim paid tribute for three years, but then decided that he no longer wanted to pay the Babylonians and stopped the payments. Though Nebuchadnezzar didn't immediately respond to the lack of tribute, Judah was in a very weakened state which allowed raiders from the countries around them to rob and destroy many parts of Judah. The writer of Kings made it clear this destruction was a fulfillment of the prophecies against Judah (2 Kin 24:1-4).

Chapter 35 of Jeremiah describes Jeremiah's interaction with the Rechabites. God used the Rechabites as an illustration to Judah of the faithfulness that He desired. God told Jeremiah to bring the Rechabites into one of the side rooms of the temple and offer them wine to drink. The Rechabites were descendants of the Kenites, the group of people related to the father-in-law of Moses. They had originally traveled with the Israelites into the promise land and were a semi-nomadic tribe who

lived among Judah without houses or possessions of their own (vs 1-2).

Jeremiah did as God asked and offered them wine in the chamber of the temple and told them to drink it. They refused this offer because one of their fathers, Jonadab, commanded them that none of his children were to drink wine. It appears that Jonadab had passed the rule about wine, as well as rules stating they should not build houses, so that they would always be welcome in the land of Israel by not taking over the land or houses of others. The Rechabites told Jeremiah that the only reason they were living in Jerusalem at the time was because they were fearful of the Babylonian army and the other invaders in the land (3-11).

This refusal to drink wine and commitment to the command of their fathers was to be used by Jeremiah as an illustration for the people of Judah. The Rechabites had kept the command of their fathers, even when they were tempted to do otherwise, long after their founding fathers were gone. The Israelites, on the other hand, failed to keep the words of God even though God was still alive and was continually using the prophets to warn the Israelites to obey the Word of their Father. Because the Israelites chose to disobey, they would continue to experience destruction in the land. It was not too late to repent and avoid disaster if they would choose to repent (vs 12-17).

God declared that Judah would be destroyed, but promised the Rechabites that they would prosper because of their faithfulness. They would continue to exist as a people group when many other family groups in Israel would be destroyed (vs 18-19).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Are you faithful to the Word of God? One of the great points of emphasis in today's reading focused on the importance of faithfulness. Luke 16:10 says, "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much." Throughout Scripture God promotes and exalts the idea of being faithful to Him. In this passage the Rechabites were rewarded because they had been faithful. God used them as an example of people who chose to listen to their father and reminded the Israelites that they should listen to their Heavenly Father. If you are a follower of Christ, you are also a child of God, and as a child, you need to follow the instructions of your Father. When you do, you will be blessed and rewarded.

### **Suggestions for Prayer**

\* *Ask God to help you live a life of faithfulness to Him.*

## **2 Kings 24**

What did Jehoiakim do for three years (vs 1)? Why?

What did God do (vs 2)? Why (vs 3-4)?

## **Jeremiah 35**

What was Jeremiah told to do (vs 1-2)?

What did Jeremiah do (vs 3-5)?

How did the Rechabites respond (vs 6)?

What had Jonadab commanded (vs 6-7)?

What had the chosen to do (vs 8-10)?

Why do you think they made this choice?

Why did they move into Jerusalem (vs 11)?

What question did God want Jeremiah to ask the people of Israel (vs 13)?

What had the Rechabites done (vs 14)?

What had the Israelites not done (vs 14)?

What message did the prophets declare (vs 15)?

What did the people fail to do (vs 15-16)?

What was God going to do (vs 17)?

Why was God going to do this (vs 17)?

What can you learn from this?

What promise did God give to the Rechabites (vs 18-19)?

What can you learn about faithfulness through this?



# “A Good Compromise”

**Study:** Daniel 1:1-16

**Reading:** Luke 16:1-14, 1 Samuel 25:1-38

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:20

Over the years I coached sports, there were many times where players had to miss practice. I was not one of those die hard coaches that punished players for missing practice, unless they simply chose not to attend. I tried to encourage my players to let me know if they had to miss and why. I would to my best to help work around their schedules and make it so they could practice and still do whatever other activities they were involved in. It didn't like it when they simply chose not to show up, and I showed much more favor on those who talked to me about having to miss. We would normally work something out if they had to be gone for an extended period of time.

Today, we are going to read about the great wisdom that Daniel displayed as a young man. This wisdom was displayed in the trust he had in God and also revealed in the way he respected his authority and attempted to work out situations instead of acting in defiance.

## What Does the Bible Say?

In 605 B.C., when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah for the first time, Jehoiakim gave little resistance. One of the demands that Nebuchadnezzar made in addition to tribute was that he be allowed to take what he desired back to Babylon with him. He chose to take some of the valuable items for the temple and had these items put in the Babylonian temple located in Shinar. Nebuchadnezzar also instructed that the best looking and wisest young people from Judah be taken from their families and brought back to Babylon where they would be taught the ways of the Chaldeans. Many of these would have been children of the leaders of the land. To help win over these young people, as well as to strengthen them, Nebuchadnezzar ordered that they be given a portion of the same kind of food that he was served. They were also to be educated for three years in the ways of the Chaldeans. At the end of that time, they would go before the king to see if they met his approval (vs 1-6).

There were many young people taken, but four of these young men

would eventually stand out above the rest. Each youth was given a new Chaldean name in order to create new identities for them. It is interesting to note that Daniel is often referred to by his Hebrew name while the other three are often referred to by their Babylonian names (vs 7).

Nebuchadnezzar was attempting to take the best young men and women from each nation and turn them into Chaldeans. Yet, Daniel chose that he wanted to maintain his Hebrew heritage and this meant that he could not eat everything that the Babylonians ate. Many of the items would have been against the dietary laws given to Israel. Instead of being defiant, Daniel wisely talked to the chief official who was over him and asked for permission to not eat what he was being offered. God had given those over Daniel a compassion for him and he found favor in their sight. Instead of forcing Daniel to eat what he was given, the leader sought for some type of way to heed Daniel's request. The big concern was that Daniel would not fare well on a different diet and that leader would lose his job for not taking care of the Hebrew captives. Daniel asked the leader to let he and his three friends try a different diet for ten days. At the end of ten days, if they looked healthy and were strong, then they would be allowed to continue their diet and avoid the king's diet. The leader agreed and at the end of this trial period, the Hebrews, who only ate vegetables and drank water, looked better than the other youths who had eaten what the king offered to them. The leader then agreed that they could eat this way for the rest of their training period (vs 8-16).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that God will be faithful to you when you take a stand for Him? Your choice to live in obedience to Him may not seem like it makes sense in the natural world, but God is in the business of doing supernatural things. The world will attempt to get you to compromise in many areas, but when you take a stand for God, He will show Himself faithful to you. It is important to note that Daniel approached this with humility rather than defiance. He attempted to find a work around, while still submitting to His authority. Most likely, it would have been a much different outcome if he simply would have chosen not to eat without saying anything. Proper communication was vital in this situation and it allowed Daniel and his friends a chance to show God faithful to them and revealed the power of God to others. The actions of Daniel give us a powerful example to learn from.

What year did Nebuchadnezzar besiege Jerusalem (vs 1)?

*\*\*\*This most likely started in the third year and continued on into the fourth year of the reign of Jehoiakim which would have been 606-605 B.C. It is interesting to note that little is recorded about this first invasion giving the idea that Jehoiakim did not put up much of a fight.*

What did God allow to happen (vs 2)?

What did Nebuchadnezzar command (vs 3)?

What type of men and women did he take (vs 3-4)?

Why did he do this?

What did the king order to be given to these young people (vs 5)?

What did the chief leader do (vs 6-7)?

What did Daniel purpose (vs 8)?

Why would this have been hard?

How did God bless Daniel (vs 9)?

Why was the leader concerned about giving into Daniel's request (vs 10)?

What proposal did Daniel make (vs 11-13)?

Why was this a wise proposal?

What did the steward over Daniel choose to do (vs 14)?

What happened after ten days (vs 15)?

What important lesson can be learned from this?

What did the steward agree to do (vs 16)?

Memory Verses

*Isaiah 40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God? 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!" 6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young. 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? 13 Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel? 14 Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? 15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. 16 Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering. 17 All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. 18 To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? 19 An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains. 20 He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move.*