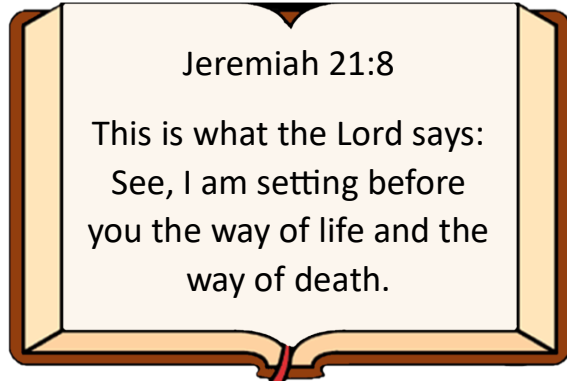


Weekly Memory Verse



Daniel Interprets the King's Dream



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According to the verse, what is the Lord setting before us?



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Lesson Link

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The captives from Judah marched for many weeks (over 500 miles) through the hot desert to their new home in Babylon. The language, customs, clothing, food and gods of the Babylonians were very strange to the people of Judah. There was nothing in this land to remind the captives of their own customs or of the one true God and His laws.

Some of the very first people taken to Babylon were the young princes from the royal family. King Nebuchadnezzar chose some of the young princes from the royal family who were intelligent, wise, and very handsome to be educated in the ways of the Babylonians so they could serve in his court. Among them were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, who were about sixteen years old at the time. Daniel's name was changed to Beltshazzar. The other three had their names changed to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

King Nebuchadnezzar gave an order for Daniel and his friends, along with many others, to be trained for three years. King Nebuchadnezzar also wanted these men to be strong and healthy, so he ordered them to eat the same kind of food and to drink the same wine that was served to him. As Jewish young men, they had been taught God's laws about the kind of food they could eat. Daniel and his friends knew they would be disobeying God if they ate or drank this food. So they determined to honor God by refusing to eat the king's food. Daniel went to the commander of the officials and asked to be excused from eating the king's food.

The commander said to Daniel, "I'm afraid of my master, the king. If he sees you looking worse than the other young men, he will kill me."

Then Daniel went to the guard who was in charge of him and his three friends and said, "Please test us for ten days. Give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare us to the other young men and see who looks healthier." He agreed to test them for ten days.

After ten days Daniel and his three friends looked healthier than all the young men who ate the king's food. From then on, the guard allowed them to continue eating and drinking their own food.

When the three years of training were complete, all the young men were brought before King Nebuchadnezzar. He discovered that none of the other young men were as smart as Daniel and his friends. The king was so impressed that he made these four young Jewish men his personal servants in the palace.

Daniel and his friends honored God by obeying Him in this very difficult place. God helped them by making them healthier and stronger than all the others and allowing them to be given important positions in Babylon.

Circle the correct answer.

At the end of ten days Daniel and his friends looked
(*better, worse*) than the others.

One night the king had a dream, which really upset him. He called in his astrologers and magicians and said, "I had a dream that bothers me. I want to know what the dream means."

As the men came and stood before him, they said, "O king, live forever! We are your servants. Please tell us your dream, and we will be glad to tell you what it means."

"No!" said the king. "If you do not tell me both the dream and what it means, you will be killed and your homes will be destroyed."

The men answered, "There is not a man on earth who can do what the king asks! Only the gods can tell you the dream, but they do not live with us."

The king was so furious that he gave an order for all the wise men of Babylon to be killed. This included Daniel and his friends, for they also served the king as his wise men.

When the king's guard came to Daniel to carry out the king's order, Daniel asked, "Why did the king order such terrible punishment?" Then the captain told him what happened. Immediately Daniel went to King Nebuchadnezzar and asked for more time so that he could tell him the dream and its meaning. The king agreed.

Daniel and his three friends immediately began to pray and asked God to show them the dream and its meaning. That night God showed Daniel the king's dream and its meaning. Daniel and his friends took time to thank God for answering their prayer.

Daniel went to the king and said, "No man can tell you your dream, but there is a God in heaven who is able to reveal secrets. In your dream you saw a huge statue with a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, and iron legs with feet of iron and clay. Then a rock destroyed the statue."

Then Daniel explained the meaning of the dream to him. Each part of the statue stood for a great nation. The head of gold stood for the mighty King Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom. The second kingdom would be weaker, pictured as chest and arms of silver. The third kingdom, pictured as belly and thighs of bronze, would rule over the whole earth. The fourth kingdom, pictured as legs of iron, would be strong and smash everything in its way. But it would become weak and divided, pictured as feet of iron mixed with clay. The rock that destroyed the statue would be the kingdom God that would never be destroyed. Daniel finished by saying to the king, "The great God has shown you what is going to take place in the future."

King Nebuchadnezzar knelt before Daniel and said, "Your God is the greatest of all gods. He is the only one who can reveal secrets." Then Nebuchadnezzar made Daniel ruler over the entire province of Babylon and its wise men. At Daniel's request, King Nebuchadnezzar promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to important positions in the government. Because Daniel and his friends honored Him, God helped them through this very difficult problem.

Circle the correct answer.

The king saw a large (animal, statue, angel) in his dream. God used this to show Nebuchadnezzar what was going to happen in the future.