

FOR
TEENS
AGES
15-17

SENIOR HIGH BIBLE CLASS

FALL QUARTER | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER 2024



Senior High Bible Class

FALL QUARTER

Two Prophets of God

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LOOKING AHEAD

This quarter, we learn about the prophets Daniel and Jonah. Daniel's center of ministry was Babylon, where he and his friends were taken into exile for the king's use. Jonah preached to Assyrian Nineveh for only a few days, proclaiming a message God wanted the Ninevites to hear.

Unit I begins with Daniel and his friends being confronted with various challenges to their faith as they sought to remain faithful to the God of their homeland. Everyone in the province of Babylon was required to worship the king's golden image. Daniel's friends' refusal led to one of the best-known stories in Scripture.

Daniel established his credibility as a gifted prophet in the eyes of the king. Unit II begins with his vision of the coming Son of Man and the establishment of His kingdom.

Unit III shows a very different prophet with a very different mission. Jonah, given a task by the Lord, was not initially willing to preach to the Assyrians in Nineveh, but God used him to show that His mercy extends even to His enemies.

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SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

DAN. 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which *are* of your sort? then shall ye make *me* endanger my head to the king.

11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

20 And in all matters of wisdom *and* understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians *and* astrologers that *were* in all his realm.

21 And Daniel continued *even* unto the first year of king Cyrus.

NOTES

PLEASE NOTE: Fundamental, sound doctrine is the objective of LifeStone Ministries, Union Gospel Press Division. The writers are prayerfully selected for their Bible knowledge and yieldedness to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Daniel Honors God's Law

Lesson Text: Daniel 1:8-21

Related Scriptures: II Chronicles 36:5-8; Psalm 119:105-112; Daniel 1:1-7

TIME: 605 B.C.

PLACE: Babylon

GOLDEN TEXT—"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat" (Daniel 1:8).

ANALYZING

The believer's faith in Christ is a highly valuable possession (cf. I Pet. 1:7). That faith, however, is meant to be lived out, exercised through action. Our study this week looks at the sincerity of the faith of Daniel and his companions as they trusted in God's commands rather than the cultural pressures of Babylon. This lesson begins the quarter's first unit of study. Our studies for the quarter will focus on two prophets of God, Daniel and Jonah. The first two units will focus on Daniel, and the third will focus on Jonah.

1. Obedience and danger (Dan. 1:8-10). The lesson text opens with a description of Daniel refusing to eat the king's meat or drink the king's wine. It is important to briefly survey the context of this opening description of Daniel's obedience. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had invaded Judah, besieged Jerusalem, and forced Judah's king into submission. Nebuchadnezzar had then put a man named Ashpenaz in charge of taking as captives young men from Judah who were physically and intellectually superior.

These young men, including Daniel and his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, were set apart to be given thorough training. They would learn the Babylonian culture and language so that they might be equipped to serve King Nebuchadnezzar. To this end, they were given new Babylonian names (the latter three of which might be more familiar to you). Daniel was renamed Belteshazzar; Hananiah became Shadrach; Mishael became Meshach; and Azariah became Abednego (vs. 7).

The kind of training they were engaged in naturally involved both learning and practicing the cultural norms of Babylon. This included Babylonian cuisine, which may have involved food and drink that the Old Testament law did not permit. A glance at Leviticus 11 shows that the Jews were called to a very specific diet, which served as one of the ways God made a distinction between Israel and other nations.

Daniel knew that to eat of the king's food would be to disobey God's law and defile himself. Essentially, he would have been unclean and would have invited such a condition willing-