

Series: The Book of Daniel
Title: The Introduction
Daniel 1

Introduction

In 721 B.C. Assyria swept out of the north, captured the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and took the ten tribes into captivity. It was bordered on the west by the Syrian desert, the south by Babylonia, and on the north and east by Persia. Today that area is primarily the nation of Iraq.

Judah followed Israel, turned away from God, and pursued the idols and foreign gods of the other nations. God warned them, but they continued their idolatry, eventually leading to their captivity in Babylon. The Monarchy ended with the fall of Jerusalem and the deportation of Judah to Babylon in 586 B.C.

1. Judah was actually subject to Babylon _____ years before the deportation.
2. If you add these years to the 50 years of exile, you have the _____ years of captivity referred to by Jeremiah.
3. _____ was the last national king in the Davidic line until Christ came.
4. After Zedekiah and most of the Judaeans were removed to Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar appointed _____, a man of good birth and position, to be their Governor.
5. The rescued remnant asked _____ to seek the Lord's guidance to determine whether they should remain in Judaea or go to Egypt.
6. Jeremiah told them that God said to stay in the Promised Land, but they _____ to believe him.
7. In 568 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar successfully invaded _____ and dethroned the Pharaoh, Hophri.
8. Josephus says that the Jews not slain at this time were all _____ to Babylon.

9. _____ was the Capital of the Chaldean Empire.
10. The magnificence of Babylon _____ that of any other city in the world of that day.
11. That is the Babylon where _____ and his companions passed their days.
12. The name Daniel means "God is my _____" in Hebrew.
13. He was a _____ of Jeremiah and probably acquainted with Habakkuk.
14. When he was about _____ years old, Nebuchadnezzar deported him to Babylon with other Jews.
15. The book of Daniel covers a period of _____ years, and Daniel himself probably lived to be about 92 years old.
16. Daniel never claimed to be a _____, and nowhere in the Old Testament is he spoken of as a _____.
17. However, part of this Book is prophetic and begins a new era in the history of prophecy as being _____.
18. Daniel, more than any other writer, presents us with a Philosophy of History and shows the relation of the Kingdoms of the world to the Kingdom of _____.
19. The book is not a history of the captivity but a _____ of God's conquering and enduring Kingdom.
20. Daniel's writing is full of _____, prophesying that beyond their present sufferings, there would be a kingdom established by God that would never pass away.
21. The book of Daniel and the book of Revelation provide invaluable information of the last days of Israel before the _____.

I. God Rewards Authentic Dedication

22. Authentic dedication to God does not guarantee your circumstances will _____ anytime soon.
23. Daniel's dedication to God causes him to refuse to be a victim of his _____.
24. God can bless you even when everything around you seems _____.

II. God Corrects Those He Loves

25. God made sure Israel was well _____ when they went into captivity.
26. Sometimes it takes hardships for us to do the soul-searching we need to do to determine where we've gone wrong and been _____ to God.
27. Refocusing your faith when you've lost your way can be expensive and _____.
28. We don't correct our children because we love to abuse them; we correct them because we love them and want them to _____ to choose wisely.

III. God Comforts the Afflicted

29. God continued to give them messages through Daniel and Ezekiel that He really _____ about them.
30. When we _____ to believe, like Paul, that God will deliver us, we will experience the comfort and peace of Christ in the midst of our sufferings.

IV. God Knows the Future

31. Daniel tells us how the story of how the world will _____.
32. In the book of Daniel, the Holy Spirit introduces us to the great eternal secrets of the future and how to live life in _____ times.

33. Daniel didn't come up with these things on his _____.
34. A comforting thought is that God knows your _____!
35. Only as we trust in Christ can we be certain that God will protect and provide for us _____.

Conclusion

Daniel is a book about dedication to God and how God rewards those who remain dedicated to Him with His blessing. It is a book about God's love for His Chosen People. It is a book that reveals a hope for a better future for those in captivity.

And it is a book that tells us how this world will come to an end. It is an ancient writing with relevant and current teaching. It is a message that will give you hope and guidance to overcome during your most difficult moments.

Answers

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|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. 20 | 13. contemporary | 25. represented |
| 2. 70 | 14. 17 | 26. disobedient |
| 3. Zedekiah | 15. 72 | 27. painful |
| 4. Gedaliah | 16. prophet | 28. learn |
| 5. Jeremiah | 17. apocalyptic | 29. cared |
| 6. refused | 18. God | 30. dare |
| 7. Egypt | 19. revelation | 31. end |
| 8. deported | 20. encouragement | 32. difficult |
| 9. Babylon | 21. Millennium | 33. own |
| 10. exceeded | 22. change | 34. future |
| 11. Daniel | 23. circumstances | 35. tomorrow |
| 12. judge | 24. hopeless | |

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. Do you live your life by your faith in God? Or by your feelings about the circumstances you're facing? How can Daniel's example help strengthen your faith?
2. Are you the afflicted one, or are you God's comforter? What aspects of your life leads you to that conclusion?
3. How certain are you about your eternal future? Do your plans include trusting in God? Do hardships and sufferings bring you closer to God and more resolute in your faith?