

7. How does this help us understand God's sovereignty and his purposes?

8. A central theme of Daniel is, "In spite of present appearances, God remains in control." Where have you seen this true in your past? In what present or future situation do you need to claim that promise?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Alice McFarlane - Coldwater Foundation, Grand Marais, MN
Pray for this wilderness camping ministry, discipleship program and what it means to trust and rely on God.

How do you most want to see God use the study of the book of Daniel in your life? Express this longing in a written prayer to God.

Sermon Notes

"The God Who is in Control"

Daniel 1:1-2

May 3, 2015

Introduction:

Background:

Conclusion:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 5-3-15

Questions adapted from Daniel: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2013, pp. 15-17.

Getting Started:

1. The Puritans spoke often of "Providence," defined as "the foreseeing care and guidance of God as he omnisciently directs the universe and the affairs of humankind with wise benevolence." We don't talk about this so often now, and may even wonder if it is true. Have you experienced a time when it was so crazy that you wondered if things slipped outside of God's control? If so, share your experience.

Digging Deeper:

2. When studying the historical and prophetic books of the Old Testament, one must remember the principle by which the LORD said he would deal with his people Israel with reference to their continued residing on the Promised Land: Obedience brings blessing, disobedience brings discipline until repentance restores blessing. Take note of how this principle is outlined in the following texts:

Lev. 26:3-4 ff., 14-16 ff., 40-42 ff.

Deut. 4:25-31

Deut. 28:1-2 ff., 15 ff.; 30:1-5 ff.

3. What does each text say with regard to being exiled out of the land?

Deut. 28:32, 36, 41, 64-65

Lev. 26:33-35

4. What does Deut. 30:1-5 say are the required conditions in order to be restored to the land after the exile?

5. When you compare Daniel 1:1-4 with Isaiah 39, what connections do you see? (Note that the conversation recorded in Isaiah 39 occurred 80-95 years prior to the events of Daniel 1.)

6. Read 2 Chronicles 34:18-28 (recording an event that occurred 17 years before Daniel 1). Read Habakkuk 1:5-11 (written a couple years before Daniel 1 occurs).

800 years before Daniel 1, the LORD told the nation how he would deal with them (Lev. 26; Deut. 28, 30). Then specific predictions are issued 80+ years before (Isaiah 39), 17 years before (2 Chr. 34), and 2 years before (Hab. 1).

How does this help you understand the claim in Daniel 1:2 that "the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into [Nebuchadnezer's] hand"?