



(The Shadow Kingdom)

Daniel 1:1-7

Main Idea

We are reminded in these verses that what we see and what God is doing are not the same.

Ice Breaker: Choose one from the following two questions to open up your discussion

1. What is the story behind your name?

If no story, what nicknames did you have growing up

2. Growing up, what was your favorite dessert?

Discussion Questions

Daniel is a prophetic book about four believers who lived out their faith in some extremely difficult situations. It's important to understand the context in which they lived.

Read 2 Chronicles 36:5-21.

1. Why did God cast His people into captivity?
2. How do you think the surrounding nations probably interpret Israel's demise?
3. With their captivity, explain what this would do to the reputation of God?
4. What is conveyed when giving a new name to a person or pet?
5. How does the Babylonian exile demonstrate that God is in control?
6. Why is it that a person's first reaction to chaos in life is typically to question God's goodness and sovereignty?
7. How do we remind ourselves of God's goodness and sovereignty?
8. In what ways have you been more influenced by Babylon than Jerusalem?
9. Daniel's commitment to a sovereign God was fleshed out in his life even in the midst of chaos. Can this be seen in your life?

Application

In verse 2 notice how God is the One who allowed King Nebuchadnezzar to overthrow Judah. It wasn't the Babylonian army that took the city but the people who rebelled against God.

We can bring on our own consequences when we choose to disobey God!

Also, in verse 2, God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar to take some of the articles from the temple of God. This would have been a major setback for the people of Judah because they were more focused on the building & the relics of the temple than they were God. When King Nebuchadnezzar took these articles from the temple it's as though their lives were over especially since the Jews were being taken captive back to Babylon.

There are many things in life we devote our focus/attention on: family, career, kids, friends, etc.... BUT none are not as important as focusing on our relationship with Christ Jesus.

What do you focus on when chaos takes place in your life?

Bottom Line

In life there will be situations in which we have no control over, yet God is in control. Remember what we see and what God is doing are not the same.