



- Picture yourself as a teenager, familiar with all your surroundings, friends and wider family. You live in a small country, not deemed great by those around. Then suddenly, your world is turned upside down. As an educated person you are forced to serve a stronger nation in their royal courts, you have to learn a new language, given a new name, new clothes to wear and told to serve false gods. Imagine you are Daniel seeing Babylon for the first time and comparing it to Jerusalem, what do you think would be different? See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1Hbht4iNQg>
- Have you ever found your world turned upside down by events? How did you feel and what questions did you have about God at the time? Where did you go for the answers?
- In v1 why would Daniel ascribe ultimate responsibility for the capture of Jerusalem to the Lord? What does this teach us about Daniel's view of God? And what does this imply about how God moves through human history?
- Take a close look at v2. Given all the things that could have been mentioned, why draw attention to the fate of the temple vessels? Note as well where they end up - what is the significance of this?
- Why does Nebuchadnezzar go to all the trouble of deporting some of the Jews to Babylon? What strategy might he have in deporting members of "the royal family and nobility" in particular (v. 3), and then training them in the culture and customs of the Babylonians (v. 4), as well as providing for them materially (v. 5)?
- In times of uncertainty, how are the following verses helpful? 1 Peter 4:12, John 16:33, Hebrews 12:26-27, Romans 5:1-5, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 5:10. How can we best help others and ourselves when times are challenging?

## Prayer Points.

Pray for the groups and activities starting up this week and for those who have continued to serve over the summer. Thank the Lord for our volunteers and those who serve faithfully, and for those who give generously.

Pray for the Leadership team as we gather this week and seek the Lord for ways ahead. Pray for unity, wisdom and God's grace to work powerfully amongst the team.

It's currently the middle of monsoon season in Bangladesh. Pray that Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha will be able to offer emergency food and supplies to communities after disasters strike.

## Sermon Notes



# BIBLE STUDY

September 8<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Faith in the Fire:**

**Things aren't what  
they used to be**

**Daniel 1:1-7**

The book of Daniel tells Daniel's story—and a fascinating and instructive story it is. But the main purpose of Daniel is to reveal to us who God is - His character, His purposes, His way of working in the world for the good of His people. The main lesson of Daniel, then, is not, as is sometimes assumed *Dare to be a Daniel!* Rather, the main point is this: *Dare to trust in Daniel's God, even when the world seems against you.* How do we remain faithful to God, especially in an age where it seems a great deal is moving in a different direction? What does it look like to trust in God when our world is turned upside down? Daniel remained faithful and God used him to great effect, how can God use us in the fiery challenges of life?

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001