

GOD IS NOT ASLEEP

Daniel 1:1-7

JOSIAH – 640–609 BC

JEHOAHAZ – 609 BC

JEHOIAKIM – 609-598 BC

1st wave of captives...605 BC

JEHOIACHIN – 598-597 BC

2nd wave of captives...597 BC

ZEDEKIAH – 597-586 BC

3rd wave of captives...586 BC

The major emphases are:

- God's *sovereignty* over all the nations
- God's *care* for the Jews in exile, with promises of final restoration
- God's *overruling of & final victory* over human evil

OVERALL OUTLINE – divides into 2 parts:

PART ONE (1–6) — *HISTORICAL STORIES*

PART TWO (7–12) — *APOCALYPTIC VISIONS*

I. THE BABYLONIAN VICTORY

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

Jehoiakim – 609 to 598 B.C.

Judean Calendar – 3rd year = follows the ‘accession-year’ system: Tishri (Sep-Oct) 606 BC to Tishri 605 BC

605 BC – Battle of Carchemish (Babylonian defeat of Egypt)

Babylonian Calendar – Jer 46:2 – 4th year = follows the ‘non-accession year’ system

King Nebuchadnezzar

King Nebuchadnezzar – closer to the Babylonian God
Nabu-kudurri-usur ('O Nabu the god, Protect my
offspring/boundary')

His father = Nabopolassar

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I. THE BABYLONIAN VICTORY

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

2 King 23:34 - Pharaoh Neco made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the place of Josiah his father, and changed his name to Jehoiakim...

I. THE BABYLONIAN VICTORY

2 The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand...

Lord = Adonai – owner, ruler, sovereign

In NT – Kurios

2 Chron 36:5 - Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God.

Deut 28:36–37 - 36 "The LORD will bring you and your king, whom you set over you, to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone. 37 "You shall become a horror, a proverb, and a taunt among all the people where the LORD drives you...49 "The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand ... 52 "It shall besiege you in all your towns until your high and fortified walls in which you trusted come down throughout your land, and it shall besiege you in all your towns throughout your land which the LORD your God has given you.

I. THE BABYLONIAN VICTORY

Isa 39:6–7 - 6 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing will be left,' says the LORD. 7 'And some of your sons who will issue from you, whom you will beget, will be taken away, and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.'"

2...along with some of the vessels of the house of God...

Isa 39:1–2, 4 - 1 At that time Merodach-baladan son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that he had been sick and had recovered. 2 Hezekiah was pleased, and showed them all his treasure house, the silver and the gold and the spices and the precious oil and his whole armory and all that was found in his treasuries. There was nothing in his house nor in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them. ... 4 He said, "What have they seen in your house?" So Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasuries that I have not shown them."

Isa 39:6 - 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing will be left,' says the LORD.

I. THE BABYLONIAN VICTORY

2...along with some of the vessels of the house of God...

Dan 5:2–4 - 2 When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. 3 Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which was in Jerusalem; and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. 4 They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

I. THE BABYLONIAN VICTORY

2...and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.

his god = Marduk (Bel)

Nebuchadnezzar's son = *Amel-Maduk*...which means *man of Marduk*

Jer 52:31 - ... Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, showed favor to Jehoiachin king of Judah and brought him out of prison.

I. THE BABYLONIAN VICTORY

2...and he brought them to the land of Shinar...

Gen 11:1-9 – the ‘tower of Babel’

*Isa 11:11 - Then it will happen on that day that the Lord Will again recover the second time with His hand The remnant of His people, who will remain, From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, **Shinar**, Hamath, And from the islands of the sea.*

*Zech 5:11 - Then he said to me, "To build a temple for her in the land of **Shinar**; and when it is prepared, she will be set there on her own pedestal."*

II. THE BABYLONIAN MAKEOVER

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles...

II. THE BABYLONIAN MAKEOVER

4 youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

A. THE QUALIFICATIONS DEMANDED

1. Of a Particular Age Group

II. THE BABYLONIAN MAKEOVER

4 youths in whom was no defect...

A. *THE QUALIFICATIONS DEMANDED*

1. **Of a Particular Age Group**
2. **Of Good Health**

Lev 21:17-18, 21

Lev 22:20 - Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it will not be accepted for you.

II. THE BABYLONIAN MAKEOVER

4 youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court;

A. THE QUALIFICATIONS DEMANDED

1. Of a Particular Age Group
2. Of Good Health
3. Of a Certain Appearance
4. Of Notable Intelligence

II. THE BABYLONIAN MAKEOVER

B. THE PRIVILEGES PROVIDED

4...and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

1. A Privileged Education

Akkadian cuneiform = Neo-Babylonian

II. THE BABYLONIAN MAKEOVER

B. THE PRIVILEGES PROVIDED

5 The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank...

- 1. A Privileged Education**
- 2. A Privileged Diet**

II. THE BABYLONIAN MAKEOVER

B. THE PRIVILEGES PROVIDED

5...and appointed that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service.

- 1. A Privileged Education**
- 2. A Privileged Diet**
- 3. A Privileged Position**

II. THE BABYLONIAN MAKEOVER

A. *THE QUALIFICATIONS DEMANDED*

B. *THE PRIVILEGES PROVIDED*

C. *THE NEW NAMES ASSIGNED*

6 Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

Daniel – God is my judge

Hananiah – Yahweh is gracious

Mishael – Who is what God is... I.e... there is no God like the God of Israel.

Azariah – Yahweh has helped ... or Yahweh will help.

II. THE BABYLONIAN MAKEOVER

A. *THE QUALIFICATIONS DEMANDED*

B. *THE PRIVILEGES PROVIDED*

C. *THE NEW NAMES ASSIGNED*

7 Then the commander of the officials assigned [new] names to them...

II. THE BABYLONIAN MAKEOVER

A. *THE QUALIFICATIONS DEMANDED*

B. *THE PRIVILEGES PROVIDED*

C. *THE NEW NAMES ASSIGNED*

Gen 41:45 - Then Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenath-paneah...

Esther 2:7 - He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had no father or mother. Now the young lady was beautiful of form and face, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

II. THE BABYLONIAN MAKEOVER

C. *THE NEW NAMES ASSIGNED*

7 ...and to Daniel he assigned [the name] *Belteshazzar*...



Daniel – God is my judge *Belteshazzar* - the Hebrew transliteration of *balatsu-usur*...meaning... 'protect his life.'

His complete name probably was Bel-beltshazzar, “Bel, protect his life.”

II. THE BABYLONIAN MAKEOVER

C. THE NEW NAMES ASSIGNED

7 ...to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abed-nego.

Hananiah – Yahweh is gracious ➔ *Shadrach...signifying ‘command of Aku’...the moon god.*

Mishael – Who is what God is? ➔ *Meshach... ‘Who is what Aku is?’*

Azariah – Yahweh has helped ➔ *Abed-nego...meaning ‘servant of Nebo.’*

QUESTIONS:

1. As these 4 young men faced their new future, what did they likely wonder about?
2. How do we maintain the consciousness of God's sovereignty no matter where we are?
3. In what sense can God's faithfulness be considered *negative* and *positive*?
4. How does the world seek to accomplish its 'training' of us today? What do we need to be on guard for today?
5. How do we strengthen ourselves for whatever day of testing comes?