

# HOPEcommunity.

HOPE Community Christian Church  
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## **Daniel – Part 1** **Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

### **Jody Launchbury Mission's Report:**

- The Baeza Family serves the Lord as missionaries in Cadereyta, Mexico
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### **Daniel 1 NIV**

#### ***Daniel's Training in Babylon***

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup> **And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand**, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god. <sup>3</sup> Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— <sup>4</sup> young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. <sup>5</sup> The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. <sup>6</sup> Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. <sup>7</sup> The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. <sup>8</sup> **But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine**, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. <sup>9</sup> Now **God had caused the official to show favor and compassion** to Daniel, <sup>10</sup> but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your<sup>[c]</sup> food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you." <sup>11</sup> Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> **"Please** test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup> Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." <sup>14</sup> So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. <sup>15</sup> At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. <sup>16</sup> So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. <sup>17</sup> To these four young men **God gave knowledge and understanding** of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. <sup>18</sup> At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup> The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; **so they entered the king's service.** <sup>20</sup> In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them **ten times better** than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. <sup>21</sup> And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

#### **God's Judgement on His people**

- Babylon attacks the kingdom of Judah again. This time, the Babylonians destroy the city of Jerusalem and the Temple that Solomon had built. More Jews are taken as captives to Babylon.
- Rabbinical literature describes Jehoiakim as a godless tyrant who committed atrocious sins and crimes. He is portrayed as living in incestuous relations with his mother, daughter-in-law, and stepmother, and was in the habit of murdering men, whose wives he then violated and whose property he seized. He also had tattooed his body which was something that the Law of Moses had forbidden Jews to do.

- The four young men had lost their home and families. There was nothing tying them back to their homeland (it was mostly destroyed) and the temple of God was defiled - no one cared if they followed God anymore.

#### **When you've lost everything...**

- Honour the Lord
- Resolving in your heart
  - Daniel's resolve "not to defile himself with the royal food..." The explanation most commonly found is that Daniel and his friends wished to avoid breaking the Jewish religious laws regarding ritual slaughter (the kosher laws); alternatively, they may have wished to avoid meat and wine as these, unlike vegetables and water, were regularly used in offerings to gods (in this case, the gods of Babylon). In either case, the theological point being made is that the Jewish youths are remaining loyal to the God of Israel while still serving the foreign king.
- An attitude of Respect for the authorities in your life
  - Learning to ask permission

#### **God will go before and defend**

- The four young exiles worked hard, honoured the Lord, and the Lord honoured them.
- 10 times better than their peers!
- They entered the king's service.

#### **We must learn how to thrive in a land ruled by people who don't honour the Lord**

- Christians don't demand rights in the sense that we try to make others obey God.
- As we obey God and honour Him and as we respect and honour the authorities in our lives, we open ourselves up for God to bless us!

#### **Salvation Prayer (to ask God to forgive your sins and adopt you as His child):**

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for taking my place by dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Saviour and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sin and giving me eternal life. I ask that You lead, teach and fill me with the Holy Spirit. Change me into a person who represents you well, in Jesus name, amen."

#### **Giving \$: Tithes/Offerings/Donations**

1. **Giving Envelopes** (located on the chairs) are to be placed in one of the two **collection boxes on the wall**.
  - A year's box of giving/tithing envelopes are available from our Envelope Secretary Dr. Paul Corriveau.
2. We offer **Monthly Withdrawal Pre Authorized Remittance**. Registration forms beside the collection boxes.
3. **Online Giving** can be done on our website through Canada Helps.
4. **Text-2-Give** using your phone by texting **705-910-0962**. You can use Visa-Debit or credit card.
5. Cheques can be **Mailed** to the church.

## **Announcements: [www.hopecommunitysite.com](http://www.hopecommunitysite.com) 705-812-2833**

**Small Group Bible Studies:** Contact Craig Basaraba for current groups or to start a group

**Morning Prayer** Monday to Friday 9 to 10 am at the church

**Woman's Walking/Exercise Group** – Mondays 7:00 pm at the church

**Kid's Tuesday Afterschool Program** – 3:30 to 5:00 pm - gym games, snack, encouragement & friendship

**Mom's Hangout** – Wednesdays 10-11:30 am... A time for Moms and kid's to hang out and get to know each other.

**Upward Soccer (Ages SK to Grade 6) Practice** – Wednesdays 6-8 pm

**God Squad Jr. High:** Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Students grades 6-8 are invited to this great program.

**Sr. High Youth:** Thursdays: 7:30 to 8:45 pm. Students grades 9-12

**Upward Soccer (Ages SK to Grade 6) Game** – Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30 am

**Good Food Box** – Orders on the first Monday of each month from 3-6 pm and pick up on the third Wednesday of each month from 3-6 pm. Fresh Fruit and Vegetables... Small box \$10, Large box \$15

**Communion Lunch Service – First Sunday of each month** Service (10:00 am) of each month as part of the morning service. Invite a friend and bring food to share in this pot luck style meal.

**Brian Thomson Ministry Weekend at HOPE Community – June 4 & 5... [www.brianthomson.com](http://www.brianthomson.com)**

- **Saturday 12:30–3:30 pm** at the church... Training on "**How to Share your faith with others**" as we learn to see the opportunities of mission and ministry around us.
- **Sunday Morning - 10 am - Family BBQ Sunday**. Brian will be our guest speaker. There will be a community BBQ with games and activities after the service.
- Invite a friend and bring your own lawn chairs as well as salads and/or desserts to share.