**THE BOOK OF DANIEL: The Most High rules in the kingdom of men**

 **and He gives it to whomever He chooses.**

**Main Idea Today: Choose your battles carefully!**

**When you choose them, make sure they’re biblical,**

**then act with courage and wisdom!**

**Historical background**

* **Israel had made a covenant with God that was conditioned on obedience (Dt. 28-30) just before they entered the land (Dt. 29:1).**
* **Obedience would bring blessing (Dt. 28:1-14), disobedience would bring curses (Dt. 29:15-68).**
* **The ultimate curse would involve expulsion from the land (Lev. 18:28; 20:22) and domination by their enemies (Dt. 29:49-68).**
* **The remedy for their sin and their return to the land involved repentance and prayer toward the City (1 Kings 8:46-51).**
* **There were many charges against the people (Lev. 18:25-29; 20:20-22), but one that is emphasized by the Lord is the failure of Israel to give the land its Sabbaths for 490 years or 70 cycles of 7 years.**
* **The Sabbath rest was to occur every seven years (Lev. 25:1-4). It had not.**
* **Jeremiah predicted a 70 deportation to Babylon (Jer. 25:11-12), one for each year the land did not get its rest (7 years Xs 70 failures = 490 years).**

**THE FINAL YEARS OF JUDAH**

Egyptian army marched through Israel to help Assyria against Babylon 609 BC

Judah’s king Josiah died in battling Egypt at Megiddo 609 BC

Judah was subjected to Egypt (Babylon then was focused on the north) 609-605 BC

**Babylon invaded Judah, deporting hostages (including Daniel) 605 BC**

Judah (under King Jehoiakim) paid annual tribute to Babylon 605-601 BC

Babylon had a costly and unsuccessful military campaign in Egypt 601 BC

Judah tried to form an alliance with Egypt (incurring Babylon’s wrath) 601 BC

**Babylon conquers Jerusalem, taking more hostages to Babylon 597 BC**

Judah is again subject to Babylon 597-586 BC

**Babylon destroys Jerusalem 586 BC**

**The Text**

**1. What happened – Daniel 1:1-2**

**2. The Re-education Program – Daniel 1:3-7**

**Renaming of the Four Judeans**

**Daniel = “God is my Judge” becomes “Belshazzar = “May Bel protect his life” (The name “Bel” is another name for Marduk).**

**Hananiah = “Yah is gracious” becomes Shadrach or “Command of Aku” (servant of the moon god)**

**Mishael = “who is He that is God?” becomes Meshach or “who is what Aku is?”**

**Azariah = “Yah helps” becomes Abed Nego or “Servant of Nebo”**

**3. Daniel’s decision 1:8-16**

 **A. The request 1:8-10**

 **B. The compromise 1:11-14**

 **C. The result 1:15-16**

**4. The blessing 1:17-21**