

GRADE 9

BIBLE

Why did God allow the captivity of Israel?

Around 931 B.C., Israel divided into two separate and quarreling nations: the kingdom of Israel in the north and the kingdom of Judea in the south. Shocking though it may seem, Israel compromised with paganism and turned its back on God. God did not immediately give up on Israel, however. Instead, He began sending prophets to call Israel to repentance.

Meanwhile, Assyria advanced across the world and conquered nation after nation. If the people of Ephraim (another name for Israel) had repented and turned from their evil ways, God would have provided a miracle to protect them from the Assyrians. But, sadly, Israel insisted on going her own way, and so God had no choice but to let her suffer the consequences of her sins. He finally “gave up” the Israelites to the Assyrians, but did so with much regret.

Describe Daniel's education.

Daniel was born into a wealthy but godly home. At that time the sons of rich and noble families had considerable education. By the time Daniel was a captive in Babylon, he was found to be “skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning” (Daniel 1:4). He was also fine and pure—by eating simple food, staying sober, studying the word of God (or as much as had been written at that time), being square and honest, and praying regularly. He also had three years of education in Babylon, where he became familiar with the writing and speaking

the language of the Chaldeans.

What archaeological finding has proven the existence of Nebuchadnezzar?

Nebuchadnezzar's name alone was stamped on so many tens of thousands of bricks that no one has ever attempted to count them. On a cuneiform tablet, a Babylonian chronicle records the story about Nebuchadnezzar's victory at Carchemish and his later dash across the desert.

“Nebuchadnezzar, the crown prince, mustered (the Babylonian army) and... marched to Carchemish which is on the bank of the Euphrates, and crossed the river (to go) against the Egyptian army which lay in Carchemish.... He accomplished their defeat.... At that time Nebuchadnezzar conquered the whole area of the Hatti-country (Syria-Palestine). For twenty-one years Nabopolassar had been king of Babylon. On the eighth of the month Ab (August 15, 605 B.C.) ...he died; in the month of Elul Nebuchadnezzar returned to Babylon and on the first day of the month of Elul (September 7) he sat on the royal throne of Babylon.”

What does the Bible tell us about astrology and how it is playing a role in Western Civilization today?

Isaiah 8:19 and 20 gives us insight into how God feels about astrology and spiritualism. Ancient astrology greatly influences modern civilization and culture today; people who engage in such things are, little by little, being deceived by Satan and, in the end, join him in the eternal death.

Explain the “time reckoning” of the Babylonians and how the truth of the Bible is vindicated because of it.

In the time of Daniel, people recognized fall-to-fall and spring-to-springs years, instead of starting off their year on January 1. Some people, like the Israelites, started their year in the spring—while others, such as the Babylonians, started their years in the fall. Hence the year abbreviations, 607/606, 606/605, 605/604. This is just one example of the many other examples of the time-reckonings of the Jews and Babylonians.

Briefly retell the story of the “fiery furnace”.

After Daniel had interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Nebuchadnezzar decided to rebel and make an image that was all gold—symbolizing his belief that Babylon would last forever. Not only did he make this statue, but he scheduled a date for the people to worship it!

Three of Daniel's friends, Shadrach, Meshac, and Abendigo, were invited to this dedication of the idol. They came but did not bow down. Nebuchadnezzar, in a fit of rage, ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter and for the three young men to be thrown in. Miraculously, they were not burned, and Nebuchadnezzar praised the God of Heaven.

Why wasn't Daniel present?

No one knows. He might have been ill; he might have been gone on a mission, he might have been excused by the king, a friend of his, from embarrassment.

What could have “seven times hotter” really meant?

The Bible does not say that the furnace was actually heated seven times hotter, it merely says that Nebuchadnezzar, in a fit of rage, ordered it to be so. Anyone in that state of mind would say something just as irrational.

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