

# the story

Pastor  
GLEN BARNES

GOD'S STORY IS OUR STORY

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First Baptist 2025 Annual Theme: God's Story

"We believe that the Bible is the divinely inspired and inerrant Word of God and that it is, therefore, the final authority in matters of faith and practice."  
FIRST BAPTIST STATEMENT OF FAITH

## The Story Review: Genesis to Daniel

**GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM:** Faithfulness leads to promised nation, blessing and land.

**GOD'S COVENANT WITH MOSES:** Purity and obedience to God's law.

**GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID:** Kingdom will endure and descendent will reign forever on the throne.

**Babylonian Captivity** Daniel shines as a light in one of the true low points in The Story.

Daniel may have \_\_\_\_\_ in Babylon, but Babylon \_\_\_\_\_ in Daniel.

“<sup>1</sup> By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. <sup>2</sup> There on the poplars we hung our harps, <sup>3</sup> for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy they said, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!' <sup>4</sup> How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land?"

~ PSALM 137:1-4 (NIV)

## How Does Daniel Thrive In Babylon?

<sup>1</sup> Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ not to conform to the culture around him.

“<sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” ~ ROMANS 12:2a (NIV)

— Babylon wanted to conquer the world by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

“<sup>1</sup> 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, Mishaël and Azariah. <sup>7</sup> The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishaël, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.”

~ DANIEL 1:1-7 (NIV)

## Babylonian Identity Theft

### Hebrew Name & Hebrew Meaning

Daniel - My Judge is God (El)  
Hananiah - Jehovah is gracious  
Mishaël - Who is like God (El)?  
Azariah - Jehovah helps me



### New Name & New Meaning

Belteshazzar - May Bel protect him  
Shadrach - Led by Aku  
Meshach - Who is like Shach?  
Abednego - Servant to Nebo

“ 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.”

~ DANIEL 1:8 (NIV)

Daniel is \_\_\_\_\_ that allow him to experience God's favor.

**17** Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. **18** He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. **19** During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven **20** and said: 'Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. **21** He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. **22** He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. **23** I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king.' "

~ DANIEL 2:17-23 (NIV)

**10** Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before."

~ DANIEL 6:10 (NIV)



Open Your Bible to Daniel 9:3-19 to follow along.

### God's Favor

**22** My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

~ DANIEL 6:22 (NIV)

**24** King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, 'Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?' They replied, 'Certainly, Your Majesty.' **25** He said, 'Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.' "

~ DANIEL 3:24-25 (NIV)

Daniel Trusts in \_\_\_\_\_, even when it is hard to see.

**1** Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. **2** And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand."

~ DANIEL 1:1-2a (NIV)

**10** This is what the Lord says: 'When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. **11** For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **12** Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. **13** You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. **14** I will be found by you,' declares the Lord, 'and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,' declares the Lord, 'and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.' "

~ JEREMIAH 29:10-14 (NIV)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS available on the APP | Google TV

For More on Daniel  
8 WEEK STUDY  
Thriving in Babylon  
Scan QR



- 1 - What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of The Story of Daniel?
- 2 - Jerusalem and God's Temple were in ruins and most of the Jews were living in exile. It is easy to see how one could lose faith. What helped them hold on to faith? What helps you hold on to faith when you experience difficulties?
- 3 - What do you think it means, Daniel may have lived in Babylon, but Babylon did not live in him? How would you put that in modern terms and is it a real possibility?
- 4 - What do you think it means that Daniel resolved not to defile himself? How is Daniel an example of Romans 12:2a?
- 5 - What do Daniel (and his friends) teach you about prayer and trusting God under challenging circumstances?
- 6 - How did Daniel (and his friends) experience God's favor? How have you experienced God's favor?
- 7 - Read Jeremiah 29:10-14. How does it make you feel to know this is a promise that took 70 years to be fulfilled? How do you stay strong when it seems like God's good plan is a long way away?

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