

## Daniel in Exile

### Day One – Position

**Today's reading:** Page 205 through break on page 209

**This reading covers:** Daniel 1-2

**Summary:** God shows his sovereignty by placing his people where he wants them to be.

#### **Consider this:**

Life is always about Plan A and Plan B. Plan A often is what we'd like to see happen. Plan B is usually what God wants instead. It's like what we read in Proverbs 16:9, "A man's heart devises his way: but the Lord directs his steps." Think about a Plan A that changed into God's Plan B in your own life. How difficult was it to make the change? What finally convinced you?

**For further reading:** Proverbs 3:5-6

#### **Prayer:**

Father, thank you for your place above all things. You truly are working out your plan for all time. I know I can defer my ways to your ways. Help me to be bold and follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Day Two – Faithfulness

**Today's reading:** Break on page 209 through break on page 214

**This reading covers:** Daniel 3-6

**Summary:** Four of God's chosen ones show faithfulness regardless of circumstances

#### **Consider this:**

What is the key ingredient that makes men like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? They came through the fire as though not burned. How does God say we'll be after our own fiery trials? Can you identify with Daniel? How? What events in your own life have created an opportunity for taking a stand?

**For further reading:** Isaiah 43:1-4

#### **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, Help my own life to emulate that of your servants, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Even though I may walk through the fire, bring me through unscathed. As I commit to stay in your word and pray daily, help me to be strong like Daniel. Let my testimony be one of strength and God's love showing through me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Day Three – Restoration

**Today's reading:** Break on page 214 to end of chapter

**This reading covers:** Jeremiah 29-31

**Summary:** Even as his people experience captivity, God sends words of hope.

**Consider this:**

Captivity can take different forms. It doesn't have to involve exile in a foreign land. Nor does it have to be a prison with physical bars and locks. It can be an exile into the recesses of one's own heart. And the bonds that keep us there can be just as strong as real-life chains. Name a form of captivity that has imprisoned you at one time or another. How long were you held captive?

How did God's Word help to release you from bondage? What other resources did you have?

**For further reading:** Acts 12:5-10; Romans 8:1-2; Galatians 5:1

**Prayer:**

Father, you have made it possible for me to be free because of Jesus Christ. Thank you for this incredible truth. Help me to live with joy in this new life that you have given me. In Jesus' name, Amen.