

RBCPC
2011 Study Series



Week #13
Study Guide

Lamentations, Ezekiel and
Daniel

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www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-your-bible/

Overview

Lamentations records the sadness over God's seeming abandonment and destruction of Jerusalem. It is marked with grief and despair, followed by a call to repentance. The prophet Ezekiel ministered to the people of Judah during the destruction of Jerusalem and the ensuing exile. Daniel is the story of a man in exile who sets an example of a righteous living. In the book of Daniel the sovereignty of Israel's God is again illustrated.

Scripture Study

Open your Bible and read the following scriptures:

Ezekiel 18:25-32

1. What kind of *justice* are the people expecting?
2. How does God reveal his *justice* to the people?
3. What is the difference between God's *justice* and the people's *justice*?
4. What kind of responsibility does God expect from his people?
5. What is God's promise if the people do as he asks?

Daniel 2:20-23

1. How does this praise scripture elevate the power of God in Babylonian culture?
2. What makes the power of God of Israel different from the power of the Babylonian gods?
3. Why is recognition of God's power so important to the people while they are in captivity?

Daniel 3:13-18

1. Why is King Nebuchadnezzar angry?
2. Why are Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego not afraid?
3. In their statement to the king, what are they implying about the sovereignty of God?

Daniel 6:26-27

1. What aspects of faithfulness did Daniel display in his encounter in the lions den?
2. What characteristic(s) of God was revealed in Daniel's lions den experience?
3. Why was it necessary for King Darius to share his decree with "all nations?"
4. What do these scriptures say to you about *trusting* God in your own circumstances?

Key Concepts

1. God is with his people, even in their captivity.
2. God is sovereign over all kingdoms of the world.

Discuss these concepts as they relate to the themes of Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel.

Reflection

God is present and is sovereign - even during grief, captivity, and seeming abandonment. Reflect on how these concepts might give you hope and future freedom from whatever sin holds you captive today.

Prayer

Repeat Daniel's prayer of praise in ***Daniel 2:20-23***:

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;
wisdom and power are his.
He changes times and seasons;
he deposes kings and raises up others.
He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to the discerning.
He reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what lies in darkness,
and light dwells with him.
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."

Pray for *wisdom* for yourself, your family, your church, and your political leaders.

Homework

Read ***Daniel 6:16-23***, in preparation for the sermon on Apr. 9/10, "*Daniel in the Lion's Den.*"
Mark words, or phrases, that stand out to you.

Notes & Reflections:

