

Habakkuk and Daniel

A Note of Introduction

The lives of GOD’S people are beginning to change dramatically as evidenced in this study of HIS people through the eyes of Habakkuk and Daniel. Their lives are not only changing because of their unfaithful choices but because it is GOD’S comprehensive, eternal plan. Visible in the study of Daniel are the picturesque stories of lions, fiery furnaces, writings on walls—stories of righteous men living in a pagan world, making faithful choices. But the study of Daniel is so much more than the obvious stories that all of us loved to hear as children. The story of Daniel is a picture of GOD’S wonderful plan—a plan that seems confusing and frightening but one that promises a very happy ending for GOD’S people. Daniel is one of those books that is best understood and appreciated if the last chapter is read first—when you know the ending—you’ll understand all the plots in between!

Peering into Daniel one will see that GOD is changing from being very visible and communicative to becoming transparent and seemingly silent—silent physically but extremely active in the spiritual warfare of HIS people. HIS people, who have been commanded to live separate from Gentile nations, will now live in the midst of Gentiles and at their mercy. GOD is deliberately positioning HIS Hebrew nation to point the Gentiles to HIM. Israel’s inheritance is transforming from a physical inheritance to a spiritual one, guaranteed not by tribal membership but by inclusion in the BOOK OF LIFE.

Is captivity really going to end when seventy years is up? Find out for yourself by taking this journey with GOD’S people through the eyes of Daniel. Look past the obvious and peer into the plan GOD has designed for you.

These lessons have been written from the New International Version of the Bible, but of course, you are not limited to that version. The questions were designed to be answered using only your Bible as a resource. Please be sure to pray before you begin each lesson.

Both of us have come to realize that we do not stand in fearful awe of GOD, like Daniel did. We have been convicted that confession and humility are inherent to a godly servant’s life. Through this study, may GOD bless you with understanding to live by faith.

Connie Barker and Karla Taylor

CAUSES FOR GOD'S WRATH LIVING BY FAITH

LESSON 1 - SELECTED PASSAGES

Section I. Read II Kings 21:1-17.

1. Identify ways Manasseh provoked GOD to anger in each of these areas:
 - ▶ in the act of worship
 - ▶ in relationship with GOD

 - ▶ in leading the people of Judah
 - ▶ in his own family

2. Who will reap the consequences of wickedness: Those who initiate or those who listen and participate? Defend your answer.

3. What was the warning given to GOD'S people about idolatry?
(Deuteronomy 12:29-32)

4. Share GOD'S description of an idol (Isaiah 44:9-19; Jeremiah 10:3-5).

5. Summarize what GOD'S people were doing through idol worship.

6. Give an example of how idols are manifested in 21st century American culture.

Section II. Read Jeremiah 23:30-32; Ezekiel 13:3-23.

7. In a few sentences, summarize the problems within the Israelite nation that were addressed here.

8. In general, what does whitewashing do?

9. a. Describe the prophets' behavior that GOD called whitewashing.

9. b. What effect did this have on the people of Judah?

10. Do people today practice the art of whitewashing? Give an example.

11. a. How were the people to know that these prophets were false?

b. What are the identifying marks of a false teacher today?

Section III. Read II Kings 21:1-2, 19-22; 23:31-32, 36-37; 24:8-9, 18-20; I Chronicles 9:1.

12. a. Fill in the chart.

The King	Length of Reign	General Behavior
Manasseh		
Amon		
Jehoahaz		
Jehoiakim		
Jehoiachin		
Zedekiah		

b. From the information above, what conclusion can you draw about the nation of Judah's wickedness?

13. What is obedient behavior?

Deuteronomy 11:13 _____

Deuteronomy 13:4 _____

Joshua 23:6 _____

I Kings 8:61 _____

14. Is it possible to obey GOD if your heart is not in it?

Section IV. Read Jeremiah 2:13, 19; 5:3, 6:16-17; 7:23-24.

15.a. List the ways the people of GOD accomplish their sin.

15.b. Are any of those things listed in 15a prevalent today? Which ones?

16. Explain the phrase *“they have dug their own cisterns...that cannot hold water.”*

17. What will persistent unfaithfulness bring upon us?

Matthew 13:41-43 _____

Matthew 25:31-46 _____

II Corinthians 5:10 _____

Galatians 6:7 _____

Section V. Read II Kings 21:9-16.

18. Who did GOD use to warn his people?

19.a. How are we to be like the prophets?

b. What do we risk when we act like the prophets?

20. State the people's response to the warnings.

21. Has GOD given us any of the same warnings that He gave the nation of Judah?
Which ones and where?