

# project 4:4

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one year one bible one church one lord

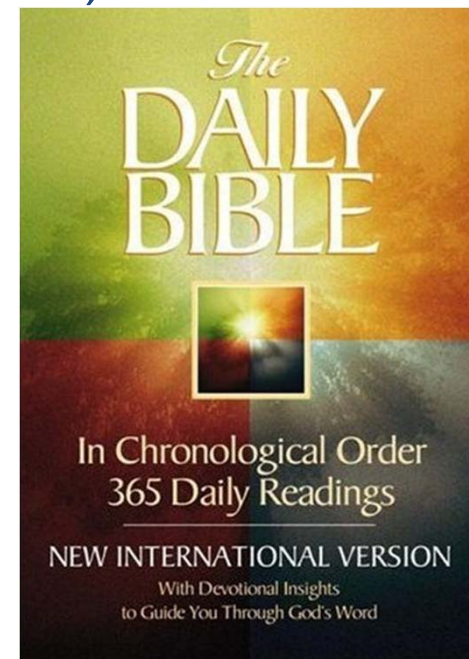
## The Exiled Nation Lesson 36

September 5, 2010

# This Week

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- ▶ We'll cover readings for August 29-September 4
- ▶ Lamentations, Jeremiah, Ezekiel
  - ▶ Jeremiah's Lamentations
  - ▶ A Remnant Flees to Egypt (Jeremiah 40-44)
  - ▶ Ezekiel's Restoration Prophecies (Ezekiel 32-39)
  - ▶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3)



# Summary

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- ▶ Over the past few weeks' reading, we've read prophecy after prophecy about what was coming
  - ▶ We've seen the nations of Israel and Judah carried off into exile because they turned away from the Lord Almighty to serve idols
  - ▶ And now we've seen Jerusalem destroyed
- ▶ What a shock this all must have been for the people of Israel
  - ▶ But they were warned
  - ▶ Not ten years ago
  - ▶ Not 100 years ago
  - ▶ Nearly 1000 years ago!



# A Horrific Prophecy

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▶ Deuteronomy 28:49-52a

- ▶ <sup>49</sup>The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the ends of the earth, like an eagle swooping down, a nation whose language you will not understand, <sup>50</sup>a fierce-looking nation without respect for the old or pity for the young. <sup>51</sup>They will devour the young of your livestock and the crops of your land until you are destroyed. They will leave you no grain, new wine or oil, nor any calves of your herds or lambs of your flocks until you are ruined. <sup>52</sup>They will lay siege to all the cities throughout your land until the high fortified walls in which you trust fall down.



# A Horrific Prophecy (cont)

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▶ Deuteronomy 28:52b-57

- ▶ They will besiege all the cities throughout the land the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>53</sup>Because of the suffering that your enemy will inflict on you during the siege, you will eat the fruit of the womb, the flesh of the sons and daughters the LORD your God has given you. <sup>54</sup>Even the most gentle and sensitive man among you will have no compassion on his own brother or the wife he loves or his surviving children, <sup>55</sup>and he will not give to one of them any of the flesh of his children that he is eating.



# A Horrific Prophecy (cont)

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▶ Deuteronomy 28:55b-57

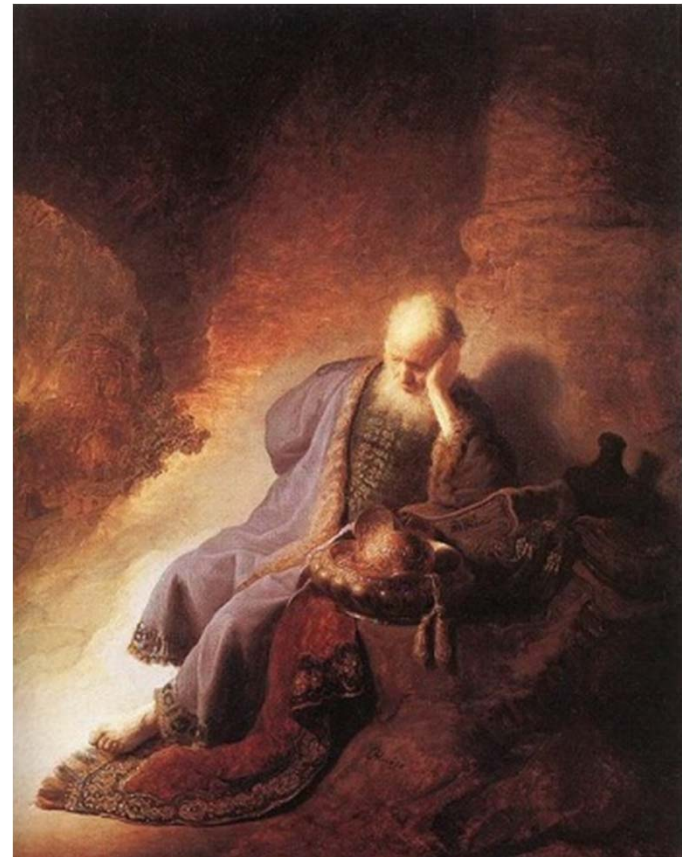
- ▶ It will be all he has left because of the suffering your enemy will inflict on you during the siege of all your cities. <sup>56</sup>The most gentle and sensitive woman among you—so sensitive and gentle that she would not venture to touch the ground with the sole of her foot—will begrudge the husband she loves and her own son or daughter the <sup>57</sup>afterbirth from her womb and the children she bears. For she intends to eat them secretly during the siege and in the distress that your enemy will inflict on you in your cities.



# Jeremiah's Lament

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- ▶ Now that Jerusalem has been destroyed, Jeremiah takes up a lament for the city and the Nation of Israel
- ▶ His deep anguish can be felt as we read of the sorrow he expresses over Jerusalem
- ▶ This is how he came to be known as the “Weeping Prophet”



# The Destruction is Complete

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## ▶ Lamentation 2:1-2

- ▶ <sup>1</sup>How the Lord has covered the Daughter of Zion with the cloud of his anger! He has hurled down the splendor of Israel from heaven to earth; he has not remembered his footstool in the day of his anger.  
<sup>2</sup>Without pity the Lord has swallowed up all the dwellings of Jacob; in his wrath he has torn down the strongholds of the Daughter of Judah. He has brought her kingdom and its princes down to the ground in dishonor.



# Everything is Destroyed

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## ▶ Lamentations 2:6-8a

- ▶ <sup>6</sup>He has laid waste his dwelling like a garden; he has destroyed his place of meeting. The LORD has made Zion forget her appointed feasts and her Sabbaths; in his fierce anger he has spurned both king and priest. <sup>7</sup>The Lord has rejected his altar and abandoned his sanctuary. He has handed over to the enemy the walls of her palaces; they have raised a shout in the house of the LORD as on the day of an appointed feast. <sup>8</sup>The LORD determined to tear down the wall around the Daughter of Zion. He stretched out a measuring line and did not withhold his hand from destroying.



# No More Visions

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- ▶ Lamentations 2:8b-9
  - ▶ He made ramparts and walls lament; together they wasted away. <sup>9</sup>Her gates have sunk into the ground; their bars he has broken and destroyed. Her king and her princes are exiled among the nations, the law is no more, and her prophets no longer find visions from the LORD.
- ▶ The fierce anger of the Lord Almighty can be seen in Jeremiah's words
  - ▶ God destroyed His own house and His own altar
  - ▶ He has exiled His chosen people



# False Prophets Led to False Hopes

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## ▶ Lamentations 2:14-15,17

- ▶ <sup>14</sup>The visions of your prophets were false and worthless; they did not expose your sin to ward off your captivity. The oracles they gave you were false and misleading. <sup>15</sup>All who pass your way clap their hands at you; they scoff and shake their heads at the Daughter of Jerusalem: “Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty, the joy of the whole earth?” ... <sup>17</sup>The LORD has done what he planned; he has fulfilled his word, which he decreed long ago. He has overthrown you without pity, he has let the enemy gloat over you, he has exalted the horn of your foes.



# Indestructible Jerusalem

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## ▶ Lamentations 4:12-13

- ▶ <sup>12</sup>The kings of the earth did not believe, nor did any of the world's people, that enemies and foes could enter the gates of Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>But it happened because of the sins of her prophets and the iniquities of her priests, who shed within her the blood of the righteous.

## ▶ It is finished ...

- ▶ Jerusalem lies in ruins
- ▶ Judah has been carried into exile
- ▶ Israel is no more



# But the Lord is Good!

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## ▶ Lamentation 3:22-26

- ▶ <sup>22</sup>Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. <sup>23</sup>They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup>I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." <sup>25</sup>The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; <sup>26</sup>it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

## ▶ Lamentation 3:31-33

- ▶ <sup>31</sup>For men are not cast off by the Lord forever. <sup>32</sup>Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. <sup>33</sup>For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men.



# After the Fall

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- ▶ Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, appoints Gedaliah, son of Ahikam (who served King Josiah), as Governor of Judah
- ▶ Gedaliah establishes his court at Mizpah, approx 10 miles NW of Jerusalem
- ▶ The people and the remnants of the army that resided outside of Jerusalem come to Gedaliah at Mizpah
- ▶ Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, supported by the Ammonites, assassinates Gedaliah and takes control of Mizpah, killing 70 men who came to mourn Gedaliah



# Gedaliah's Death Avenged

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- ▶ Johanan, son of Kareah, and the remnant of the army with him, rescues Mizpah and those held captive there
- ▶ Johanan engages Ishmael in battle at Gibeon, but Ishmael escapes to Ammon
- ▶ Johanan and those with him now fear what the Babylonians might do in response and inquire of Jeremiah what they should do



# Petition the Lord

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## ▶ Jeremiah 42:1-4

- ▶ <sup>1</sup>Then all the army officers, including Johanan son of Kareah and Jezaniah son of Hoshai, and all the people from the least to the greatest approached <sup>2</sup>Jeremiah the prophet and said to him, “Please hear our petition and pray to the LORD your God for this entire remnant. For as you now see, though we were once many, now only a few are left. <sup>3</sup>Pray that the LORD your God will tell us where we should go and what we should do.”
- ▶ <sup>4</sup>“I have heard you,” replied Jeremiah the prophet. “I will certainly pray to the LORD your God as you have requested; I will tell you everything the LORD says and will keep nothing back from you.”



# We Will Obey

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## ▶ Jeremiah 42:5-6

- ▶ <sup>5</sup>Then they said to Jeremiah, “May the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act in accordance with everything the LORD your God sends you to tell us. **Whether it is favorable or unfavorable, we will obey the LORD our God,** to whom we are sending you, so that it will go well with us, for we will obey the LORD our God.”



# The Lord's Answer ... And Promise

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## ▶ Jeremiah 42:7,9-12

- ▶ <sup>7</sup>Ten days later the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah ... <sup>9</sup>He said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your petition, says: <sup>10</sup>‘If you stay in this land, I will build you up and not tear you down; I will plant you and not uproot you, **for I am grieved over the disaster I have inflicted on you.** <sup>11</sup>Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you now fear. Do not be afraid of him, declares the LORD, for I am with you and will save you and deliver you from his hands. <sup>12</sup>I will show you compassion so that he will have compassion on you and restore you to your land.’



# A Stern Warning

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## ▶ Jeremiah 42:13-16

- ▶ <sup>13</sup>“However, if you say, ‘We will not stay in this land,’ and so disobey the LORD your God, <sup>14</sup>and if you say, ‘No, we will go and live in Egypt, where we will not see war or hear the trumpet or be hungry for bread,’ <sup>15</sup>then hear the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘If you are determined to go to Egypt and you do go to settle there, <sup>16</sup>then the sword you fear will overtake you there, and the famine you dread will follow you into Egypt, and there you will die.’”



# A Stern Warning (cont)

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## ▶ Jeremiah 42:17-18

- ▶ <sup>17</sup>Indeed, all who are determined to go to Egypt to settle there will die by the sword, famine and plague; not one of them will survive or escape the disaster I will bring on them.' <sup>18</sup>This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'As my anger and wrath have been poured out on those who lived in Jerusalem, so will my wrath be poured out on you when you go to Egypt. You will be an object of cursing and horror, of condemnation and reproach; you will never see this place again.'



# A Fatal Mistake ...

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## ▶ Jeremiah 42:19-22

- ▶ <sup>19</sup>“O remnant of Judah, the LORD has told you, ‘Do not go to Egypt.’ Be sure of this: I warn you today <sup>20</sup>that you made a fatal mistake when you sent me to the LORD your God and said, ‘Pray to the LORD our God for us; tell us everything he says and we will do it.’ <sup>21</sup>I have told you today, but you still have not obeyed the LORD your God in all he sent me to tell you. <sup>22</sup>So now, be sure of this: You will die by the sword, famine and plague in the place where you want to go to settle.”



# Liar!

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## ▶ Jeremiah 43:1-3

- ▶ <sup>1</sup>When Jeremiah finished telling the people all the words of the LORD their God—everything the LORD had sent him to tell them—<sup>2</sup>Azariah son of Hoshaiah and Johanan son of Kareah and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, “You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, ‘You must not go to Egypt to settle there.’ <sup>3</sup>But Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against us to hand us over to the Babylonians, so they may kill us or carry us into exile to Babylon.”



# OK, Let Me Get This Straight ...

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- ▶ You want to know what God wants you to do
- ▶ You ask the prophet not to hold anything back
- ▶ You solemnly promise to obey – regardless of the answer
- ▶ And when the prophet tells you something you didn't want to hear, you call him a liar and do what you wanted to do anyway
- ▶ Maybe that's how things worked in 582 BC, but certainly not in 2010 AD
  - ▶ Right?



# We'll Do It Our Way

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- ▶ In spite of Jeremiah's message, Johanan and his followers leave Judah and flee to Egypt in hopes of avoiding retaliation from the Babylonians
- ▶ However, they do this in full disobedience to the Word of the Lord and will pay the price for their sin



# Off to Egypt

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## ▶ Jeremiah 43:4-7

- ▶ <sup>4</sup>So Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers and all the people disobeyed the LORD'S command to stay in the land of Judah. <sup>5</sup>Instead, Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers led away all the remnant of Judah who had come back to live in the land of Judah from all the nations where they had been scattered. <sup>6</sup>They also led away all the men, women and children and the king's daughters whom Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard had left with Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch son of Neriah. <sup>7</sup>So they entered Egypt in disobedience to the LORD and went as far as Tahpanhes.



# The Route Back to Egypt



# The Scattered Nation

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## ▶ Deuteronomy 28:64-66

- ▶ <sup>64</sup>Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods—gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. <sup>65</sup>Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. <sup>66</sup>You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life.



# The Scattered Nation (cont)

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## ▶ Deuteronomy 28:67-68

- ▶ <sup>67</sup>In the morning you will say, “If only it were evening!” and in the evening, “If only it were morning!” —because of the terror that will fill your hearts and the sights that your eyes will see. <sup>68</sup>The LORD will send you back in ships to Egypt on a journey I said you should never make again. There you will offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you.



# Don't Go Back to Egypt

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## ▶ Deuteronomy 17:16

- ▶ <sup>16</sup>The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, **“You are not to go back that way again.”**



# Jews in Egypt

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- ▶ The Jews established settlements in Egypt and even went as far as building a replica of the Temple at Elephantine, an island in the Nile River in Upper Egypt
- ▶ Some scholars believe that the Ark of the Covenant made its way to this temple
- ▶ There is evidence of idol worship in conjunction with this Temple



# Destruction in Egypt

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## ▶ Jeremiah 44:11-14

- ▶ <sup>11</sup>“Therefore, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I am determined to bring disaster on you and to destroy all Judah. <sup>12</sup>I will take away the remnant of Judah who were determined to go to Egypt to settle there. They will all perish in Egypt; they will fall by the sword or die from famine. From the least to the greatest, they will die by sword or famine. They will become an object of cursing and horror, of condemnation and reproach. <sup>13</sup>I will punish those who live in Egypt with the sword, famine and plague, as I punished Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>None of the remnant of Judah who have gone to live in Egypt will escape or survive to return to the land of Judah, to which they long to return and live; none will return except a few fugitives.”



# Idol Worship Continues

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## ▶ Jeremiah 44:15-18

- ▶ <sup>15</sup>Then all the men who knew that their wives were burning incense to other gods, along with all the women who were present—a large assembly—and all the people living in Lower and Upper Egypt, said to Jeremiah, <sup>16</sup>“We will not listen to the message you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD! <sup>17</sup>We will certainly do everything we said we would: We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and will pour out drink offerings to her just as we and our fathers, our kings and our officials did in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. At that time we had plenty of food and were well off and suffered no harm. <sup>18</sup>But ever since we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have had nothing and have been perishing by sword and famine.”



# Egypt to Fall

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## ▶ Ezekiel 32:11-12,15

- ▶ <sup>11</sup>“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:“The sword of the king of Babylon will come against you. <sup>12</sup>I will cause your hordes to fall by the swords of mighty men—the most ruthless of all nations. They will shatter the pride of Egypt, and all her hordes will be overthrown.
- ▶ <sup>15</sup>When I make Egypt desolate and strip the land of everything in it, when I strike down all who live there, then they will know that I am the LORD.’



# Restoration!

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## ▶ Ezekiel 39:25-29

- ▶ <sup>25</sup>“Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will now bring Jacob back from captivity and will have compassion on all the people of Israel, and I will be zealous for my holy name. <sup>26</sup>They will forget their shame and all the unfaithfulness they showed toward me when they lived in safety in their land with no one to make them afraid. <sup>27</sup>When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will show myself holy through them in the sight of many nations. <sup>28</sup>Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. <sup>29</sup>I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD.”



# Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

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## ▶ Daniel 3:16-18

- ▶ <sup>16</sup>Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup>If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup>But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”



# The Fiery Furnace

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## ▶ Daniel 3:19-23

- ▶ <sup>19</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual <sup>20</sup>and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. <sup>21</sup>So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. <sup>22</sup>The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, <sup>23</sup>and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.



# We Know the Story Well

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- ▶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow down to the idol
- ▶ King Nebuchadnezzar had them bound and thrown into the furnace
- ▶ The fire was so hot that the soldiers handling them were consumed
- ▶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were saved by an angel from the Lord and escaped unharmed
- ▶ Consider this:
  - ▶ Those who were bound were saved, while the free men (soldiers) were killed



# Final Thought

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- ▶ They didn't **BEND**
  - ▶ When it would have been easy to eat the King's and become defiled
- ▶ They didn't **BOW**
  - ▶ When Nebuchadnezzar commanded them to worship the idol
- ▶ They didn't **BURN**
  - ▶ When thrown into the furnace



## Your Turn ...

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- ▶ What insights have you gained from this week's study?
- ▶ What did you find in these passages that you have never seen before?
- ▶ How did the Lord speak to your heart through the Word this week?
- ▶ How will your walk with Him be different as a result?



# Next Week

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- ▶ Readings for September 5-September 11
  - ▶ Why the Righteous Suffer

# Questions?

