

## Walking Through the Word

### Kings and Prophets (Week 16)

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Story: **Exile: Away from Home** (E: Captives in a Strange Land, p 309-311)

Location: **2 Chronicles 36, Ezekiel**

#### Bios & definitions

**Jews:** the name the Chaldeans called the prisoners from Judah

**Ezekiel:** name means “God is strong”, “God strengthens” or “God makes hard”; son of Buzi; a Zadokite priest; taken into exile in 597 B.C. during the second deportation; served as a prophet to the exiles in Babylon from 593-571 B.C.

Story: **Living Faithfully Under Pressure** (E: Daniel in the King’s Court, Daniel and the King’s Dream, The Fiery Furnace, Nebuchadnezzar Loses His Mind, The Handwriting on the Wall, Daniel in the Lion’s Den, Daniel Prophecies, p 311-327)

Location: **Daniel 1-12**

#### Bios & definitions

**Daniel:** name means “God is my Judge” in Hebrew; Babylonian name, Belteshazar, means “Bel (also called Marduk, the chief Babylonian god), protect his life”; prophesied as an exile in Babylon during the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar, Darius the Mede, and Cyrus of Persia; spent about 70 years in Babylon and saw the exiles return to Judah; was exiled to Babylon in 605 when King Nebuchadnezzar swept into Jerusalem; chosen for service in the king’s palace; refused to eat unclean food from the king’s table; after interpreting the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar he was appointed ruler over the whole province of Babylon and placed in charge of the wise men; was called by Belshazzar to read the handwriting that appeared on the wall during a banquet the king was giving; was saved by God after being thrown into a den of lions for not following a decree prohibiting him to pray to God

**Hananiah:** name means “the LORD shows grace” in Hebrew; Babylonian name, Shadrach, probably means “under the command of Aku (the moon god)

**Mishael:** name means “who is like God?” in Hebrew; Babylonian name, Meshach, probably means “who is like Aku?”

**Azariah:** name means “the LORD helps” in Hebrew; Babylonian name, Abednego, means “servant of Nego/Nebo (or Nabu, the god of learning and writing)

**Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego:** Daniel’s three friends who were with him during the exile; refused to eat unclean food from the king’s table; prayed with Daniel to know and understand King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream; appointed as Daniel’s assistants after his interpretation of the king’s dream; were saved by God when they were thrown into a fiery furnace as a result of refusing to bow down to an idol built by Nebuchadnezzar; stood strong in their faith throughout the exile

## Walking Through the Word

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**King Nebuchadnezzar:** became the king of Babylon in 605 B.C. and ruled until his death in 562; known as the greatest of the Babylonian kings; became extremely proud which led to a bout of insanity

**King Belshazzar:** means “Bel, protect the king”; reigned over the Babylonian empire from 553-539 as a coregent with his father Nabonidus; in 539 saw a hand writing on the wall during a banquet in which he brought in the gold goblets from the temple; was slain the very night of the banquet – fulfilling the prediction of the second phase of Nebuchadnezzar’s first dream

**Darius the Mede:** at the age of 62 took over the kingdom of Babylon from Belshazzar; not to be confused with Darius I mentioned in Ezra, Haggai, and Zechariah or Darius II (the Persian) mentioned in Nehemiah; may have been appointed by Cyrus to rule over Babylon as a province of Persia or it was Cyrus’s throne name in Babylon; “made every effort...until sundown to save him (Daniel)” from the lions’ den

Story: **A New King in Town and a New Place to Call Home** (E: The Homecoming of the Jews, Trouble in Rebuilding the Temple, p 327-330)

Location: **Ezra 1-4:24**

#### Bios & definitions

**King Cyrus:** used by God to fulfill Jeremiah’s prophecy of the exiles return to Jerusalem after 70 years; founder of the Persian Empire; reigned from 559-530; gave the Jews protection, money and the temple articles taken by Nebuchadnezzar

**Zerubbabel:** from the family of David; leader of the returning Jews under King Cyrus; ruled the returning Jews in Jerusalem as a prince under the command of King Cyrus; became discouraged and afraid and halted building on the temple for 16 years; finished the temple in 4 years after the prophets Haggai and Zechariah were sent to encourage him

**Jeshua:** means ‘the LORD saves’; high priest that returned to Jerusalem from captivity; helped Zerubbabel in the rebuilding of the temple