**Daniel 3:26-45 and Daniel 3:51-90**

**The Prayers of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego**

**Lesson 5**

1. **When did you feel closest to God this week? *Or* what verses or lessons from our reading of the prayers in Daniel 3 did you find inspiring?**
2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are among the Jews who were captured and in exile in Babylonia (~585- 516 B.C.). **Why do they believe they have been subjected to this Babylonian captivity?** See Dan 3:28-32. **Is this an “Act of Contrition”?**

**Dan 3:28-32**

You have executed proper judgments
    in all that you have brought upon us
    and upon Jerusalem, the holy city of our ancestors.
By a proper judgment you have done all this
    because of our sins;
**29**For we have sinned and transgressed
    by departing from you,
    and we have done every kind of evil.
**30**Your commandments we have not heeded or observed,
    nor have we done as you ordered us for our good.
**31**Therefore all you have brought upon us,
    all you have done to us,
    you have done by a proper judgment.
**32**You have handed us over to our enemies,
    lawless and hateful rebels;
    to an unjust king, the worst in all the world.

33 Now we cannot open our mouths;
     shame and reproach have come upon us,
     your servants, who revere you.

1. **How does the first prayer or song describe God? What attributes are given to God in the first prayer?**

See Dan 3:26-27 and 3:45.

**Dan 3:26-27**

“Blessed are you, and praiseworthy,
    O Lord, the God of our ancestors,
    and glorious forever is your name.
**27**For you are just in all you have done;
    all your deeds are faultless, all your ways right,
    and all your judgments proper.

**Dan 3:45** Let them know that you alone are the Lord God,
    glorious over the whole world.”

1. **Aside from being thrust in a fiery furnace, what are some of the consequences of their captivity that are noted in this first prayer?** See Dan 3:32-33 (above) and 3:37-38 (below).

 **Dan 3:37-38**

 For we are reduced, O Lord, beyond any other nation,
    brought low everywhere in the world this day
    because of our sins.
**38**We have in our day no prince, prophet, or leader,
    no burnt offering, sacrifice, oblation, or incense,
    no place to offer first fruits, to find favor with you.

1. **What specific petitions are made in this first prayer?** See Dan 3:34-36, 3:40, and 3:43-45.

**Dan 3:34-45**.

For your name’s sake, do not deliver us up forever,
    or make void your covenant.
**35**Do not take away your mercy from us,
    for the sake of Abraham, your beloved,
    Isaac your servant, and Israel your holy one,
**36**To whom you promised to multiply their offspring
    like the stars of heaven,
    or the sand on the shore of the sea.
**37**For we are reduced, O Lord, beyond any other nation,
    brought low everywhere in the world this day
    because of our sins.
**38**We have in our day no prince, prophet, or leader,
    no burnt offering, sacrifice, oblation, or incense,
    no place to offer first fruits, to find favor with you.
**39**But with contrite heart and humble spirit
    let us be received;
As though it were burnt offerings of rams and bulls,
    or tens of thousands of fat lambs,
**40**So let our sacrifice be in your presence today
    and find favor before you;
    for those who trust in you cannot be put to shame.

And now we follow you with our whole heart,
    we fear you and we seek your face.
Do not put us to shame,
**42**    but deal with us in your kindness and great mercy.
**43**Deliver us in accord with your wonders,
    and bring glory to your name, O Lord:
**44**Let all those be put to shame
    who inflict evils on your servants;
Let them be shamed and powerless,
    and their strength broken;
**45**Let them know that you alone are the Lord God,
    glorious over the whole world.”

1. The second prayer or song begins after the saving power of God was made known to the three men in the fiery furnace. **What is different about the tone and content of the two prayers?**
2. **What is the reason for the joy expressed in the second prayer?**  See Daniel 3:88 and 3:46-50.

**Daniel 3:88**

Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, bless the Lord;
    praise and exalt him above all forever.
For he has delivered us from Sheol,
    and saved us from the power of death;
He has freed us from the raging flame
    and delivered us from the fire.

**Daniel 3:46-51**

**46**Now the king’s servants who had thrown them in continued to stoke the furnace with naphtha, pitch, tow, and brush. **47**The flames rose forty-nine cubits above the furnace, **48**and spread out, burning the Chaldeans that it caught around the furnace. **49**But the angel of the Lord went down into the furnace with Azariah and his companions, drove the fiery flames out of the furnace, **50**and made the inside of the furnace as though a dew-laden breeze were blowing through it. The fire in no way touched them or caused them pain or harm. **51**Then these three in the furnace with one voice sang, glorifying and blessing God:

1. This song of praise sounds very similar to language in Psalm 136. **Read Psalm 136 below and search for similar phrases and sentiments between Psalm 136 and Daniel 3:52-90.**

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| **Psalm 136**Praise the Lord, for he is good;    for his mercy endures forever;**2**Praise the God of gods;    for his mercy endures forever;**3**Praise the Lord of lords;    for his mercy endures forever;II**4**Who alone has done great wonders,    for his mercy endures forever;**5**Who skillfully made the heavens,    for his mercy endures forever;**6**Who spread the earth upon the waters,    for his mercy endures forever;**7**Who made the great lights,    for his mercy endures forever;**8**The sun to rule the day,    for his mercy endures forever;**9**The moon and stars to rule the night,    for his mercy endures forever;III**10**Who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,    for his mercy endures forever;**11**And led Israel from their midst,    for his mercy endures forever;**12**With mighty hand and outstretched arm,    for his mercy endures forever;**13**Who split in two the Red Sea,    for his mercy endures forever;**14**And led Israel through its midst,    for his mercy endures forever;**15**But swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea,    for his mercy endures forever;**16**Who led the people through the desert,    for his mercy endures forever;IV**17**Who struck down great kings,    for his mercy endures forever;**18**Slew powerful kings,    for his mercy endures forever;**19**Sihon, king of the Amorites,    for his mercy endures forever;**20**Og, king of Bashan,    for his mercy endures forever;**21**And made their lands a heritage,    for his mercy endures forever;**22**[[b](#fen-NABRE-18349b)]A heritage for Israel, his servant,    for his mercy endures forever.V**23**The Lord remembered us in our low estate,    for his mercy endures forever;**24**Freed us from our foes,    for his mercy endures forever;**25**And gives bread to all flesh,    for his mercy endures forever.VI**26**Praise the God of heaven,    for his mercy endures forever. | **Daniel 3:52-90**“Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestors,    praiseworthy and exalted above all forever;And blessed is your holy and glorious name,    praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.**53**Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory,    praiseworthy and glorious above all forever.**54**Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,    praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.**55**Blessed are you who look into the depths    from your throne upon the cherubim,    praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.**56**Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven,    praiseworthy and glorious forever.**57**Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord,    praise and exalt him above all forever.**58**Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord,    praise and exalt him above all forever.**59**You heavens, bless the Lord,    praise and exalt him above all forever.**60**All you waters above the heavens, bless the Lord,    praise and exalt him above all forever.**61**All you powers, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**62**Sun and moon, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**63**Stars of heaven, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**64**Every shower and dew, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**65**All you winds, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**66**Fire and heat, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**67**Cold and chill, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**68**Dew and rain, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**69**Frost and chill, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**70**Hoarfrost and snow, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**71**Nights and days, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**72**Light and darkness, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**73**Lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**74**Let the earth bless the Lord,    praise and exalt him above all forever.**75**Mountains and hills, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**76**Everything growing on earth, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**77**You springs, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**78**Seas and rivers, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**79**You sea monsters and all water creatures, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**80**All you birds of the air, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**81**All you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**82**All you mortals, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**83**O Israel, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**84**Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**85**Servants of the Lord, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**86**Spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**87**Holy and humble of heart, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.**88**Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, bless the Lord;    praise and exalt him above all forever.For he has delivered us from Sheol,    and saved us from the power of death;He has freed us from the raging flame    and delivered us from the fire.**89**Give thanks to the Lord, who is good,    whose mercy endures forever.**90**Bless the God of gods, all you who fear the Lord;    praise and give thanks,    for his mercy endures forever.” |