



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## God's Purpose For Daniel (& you)! (Daniel Chapt. 1-6)

MAY 18, 2011

Dave DePue / (785) 249 7604 / [www.capitolcom.org](http://www.capitolcom.org) / [dave.depue@capitolcom.org](mailto:dave.depue@capitolcom.org)

**Friendly Notice:** We plan to gather for a brief version of our leader's Bible Study during the Legislative interim. This will be a simple content/discussion format. We meet in the Governor's Conference Room: 264 West at 7:30 AM Wednesdays. Travel and executive commitments will challenge some. However, a remnant will be present to continue this enriching series of study, fellowship and prayer. Please share any input you have on this.

### INTRODUCTION

We should look at our life from the perspective of a sovereign God. What is His purpose for our life? Most of us will have difficulty with such an eternal perspective. This assignment may be simpler when applied to Daniel, a noble servant of God during the years 605 – 531 B.C.

### A NATION IS JUDGED

*Jeremiah 2:7 I brought you into a bountiful country, to eat its fruit and its goodness. But when you entered, you defiled My land and made My heritage an abomination.<sup>1</sup>*

God warned His people Israel through His prophets Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah. Their idolatry (chasing after gods of the world) resulted in their being taken into captivity. The prophecy was fulfilled in 605 B.C. when Babylon conquered Jerusalem, exiling Daniel and his three teenage friends: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. God gave favor to these, resulting in their promotion to the highest administrative positions under the successive kings of two world empires. Daniel served in the king's court and looked after the people Israel during their captivity. Ultimately, Daniel served as senior administrator under Cyrus (Daniel 6:28).

Our Capitol study of the Book of Daniel has shown us that God judges individual people as well as nations. We are required to be faithful through it all. Please reflect on the role where God has you serving.

### IN GOD'S CARE

*Jeremiah 29:11-14 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."<sup>2</sup>*

Jeremiah prophesied that Israel would be exiled for seventy years and then be allowed to return (25:11, 29:10). Isaiah not only prophesied the return but named Cyrus as the one charged with shepherding the process. **This was written a century and a half before Cyrus lived and became King of Persia!** The historian Josephus reported that Daniel read the record of Isaiah to Cyrus, prompting him to issue the order sending the people back to their homeland.<sup>3</sup> Cyrus' proclamation is described in Ezra 1:1-4 and 2 Chronicles 36: 22-23.

### THE DIVINE KINGDOM

*Daniel 2:44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."<sup>4</sup>*

Like Daniel, we are called to serve our Lord regardless of our station in life. You are being given bits of a vision of your purpose in God's plan. We must be faithful.

<sup>1</sup> The Holy Bible. New International Version. (Biblica). 1984.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible. (Thomas Nelson Inc.). p630.

<sup>4</sup> The Holy Bible. New International Version. (Biblica). 1984

### BIBLE STUDIES

LEADER'S STUDY: WEDNESDAYS 7:30 AM, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM 264 WEST