# WHITES RUN BAPTIST CHURCH

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PASTOR: MUSIC:

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# August 25th, 2024

#### **Announcements**

- 6:00 PM Bible Study: Join us for interactive sessions that dig deeper into the truths of God's Word.
- Food Pantry: Please bring shelf-stable food products, especially cereal, to the church for the food pantry.
- Family Dinner, every Sunday 12:00-?. Everyone is invited.
- Prayer Meeting, Wednesday 7:00 PM: Come pray with us for our church, and our community.
- Please subscribe to our **YouTube channel** at youtube.com/@whitesrun.

The Exiles: Daniel 1:1-21; Deuteronomy 28-30.

#### Introduction

- Stories about courtiers (those who serve in kings' courts) were popular in the ancient Near East. In the Bible, we have the stories of Mordecai (in Esther), Joseph (in Genesis), and Daniel in the book that bears his name. These stories come in two main types:
  - The conflict story: The hero's life is in danger usually due to some conspiracy among the others, Daniel 3, 6.
  - The contest story: The hero solves a problem that the other courtiers could not and so shows himself superior, Daniel 1, 2, 4, 5.
- Daniel of course has both types of stories with one major distinction as in all biblical stories - God is the hero.
- Today's Lesson: God's people can remain faithful in every circumstance because it is God who put them there.

#### The Sermon Series:

- The Sovereign over All Kingdoms: God's people can live with hope in every context because of God's ultimate victory in all things.
- Today's Lesson: God's people can remain faithful in every circumstance because it is God who put them there.

#### The Historical Context

- Quick history of the nation of Israel: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, twelve sons, Egypt, exodus, conquest, judges, Saul, David, Solomon, divided kingdom, Northern Kingdom (Israel) scattered by Assyria, Southern Kingdom (Judah) conquered by Babylon and taken into exile.
- The fall of the Southern Kingdom (Judah): 2 Kings 24; 2 Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 25; Daniel 1:1-7.
- This was long predicted by the prophets. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Habakkuk, etc.

#### **The Covenant Context**

- The quality of life for the Israelites in the promised land depended upon their faithfulness to God, Deuteronomy 28. (Blessings and curses)
- After persistent disobedience, the LORD promised exile, Deuteronomy 28:36-37, 63-65;

### The First Trial

- The food and wine had probably been sacrificed to idols making its consumption a form of worship.
- But it is also possible that Daniel and the others are doing what they can to retain a distinction.
- The God of Israel had apparently been defeated, Daniel 1:2; but Daniel and the others would not concede that defeat.

#### The Lessons

- God is the hero here. Daniel 1:2, 9, 17.
- And Daniel and the others were responding in faith.

# The Application

 We can remain faithful in todays' world and maintain a witness to God and a hope in His plans because it is God who put us here.

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