



Black History School

God's Glory...Our Story

Biblically based • Culturally relevant • Education as liberation

BHS Overview

Black History School (BHS) relates powerful stories from the past to our present. By studying the similarities between selected passages from the Book of Daniel with certain aspects of Black History, we will discover the transformative influence we can have in the world today.

Lesson 1 Review

No matter which earthly leader is in office, the sovereign hand of God reigns supreme, (Daniel 1:21).

Our story did not begin with slavery. Africa is home to the earliest civilizations.

Lesson 2 Review

We are divine originals, differently gifted by God, and descendants of royalty. As such, we must dare to be different. Our obedience to God will put us in places, where our gifts will glorify God.

Lesson 3 Review

We live in a pluralistic society that's very similar to Babylon. Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abendego) show us how to live faithfully among people who have different values. Their courageous worship of God converts a pagan king. **Imagine how impactful your witness can be in the world today!**

A Call to Consciousness

Daniel 5:1-4, 10 & 11, 23

Lesson Aim: To examine the consequences of careless behavior. To see what happens when God's treasures are mishandled.

A Strong Deliverer (Romans 8:33-39)

- In obedience to God's first commandment, Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abendego) refused to worship the golden statue - cf Deuteronomy 5:8-10
- Their defiant faith set the stage for God to reveal God's self to the conceited king and the conformers who bowed to the statue (Daniel 3:24 & 25)
- When Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abendego) came out of the furnace unsinged, unscorched and not even smelling like smoke, Nebuchadnezzar blessed God as Deliverer (Daniel 3:26-28)

"If a man hasn't discovered something to die for, he isn't fit to live."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



**STRONGER
WISER
BETTER**



Recap: Daniel 3 ¹⁵ "Now if you are ready... you should fall down and worship the statue that I have made. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?" ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered...¹⁷ If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

The King's Heart is Turned Toward God & His Kingdom Worships God

Daniel 4

King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages that live throughout the earth: May you have abundant prosperity! 2 The signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me I am pleased to recount.3 How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his sovereignty is from generation to generation. (vv 1-3)

- Daniel 1 – difference makes folks curious about God (vv 8 – 16)
- Daniel 2 – deference gives the king faith in God (vv 27-30, 47)
- Daniel 3 – disobedience makes the king bless God (v 28)
- Daniel 4 – disgrace makes the king worship God (vv 28-37)



Daniel 3 • A Call to Consciousness

The Passage of Time – The Babylonian Empire comes to an end approximately 23 years after Nebuchadnezzar's death.

The Spiritual/Political Climate - Nabonidus is co-regent with Belshazzar, his son. Though Nabonidus is not mentioned in the Bible, history reveals that he was Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law. During his reign, he led the kingdom back to pagan worship and restored many of the deteriorated Babylonian temples.

The Irony of the Name (v 1) – Belshazzar means Bel protect the king

The Foolishness of the Festivities (vv 1-4) - The city is surrounded by a Persian army. Belshazzar trusts in Babylon's massively fortified walls and food provisions. He throws a morale-boosting feast to remind the nobility of past victories. Drunk off of his own pride and power, he reverses the actions of Nebuchadnezzar and defiles the sacred objects that were carried away from the temple of Jerusalem.

The Writing on the Wall (vv 5 – 12) – during the revelry, a disembodied hand writes a mysterious message to the king. Again, Belshazzar does the opposite of his predecessor. He offers a reward to the one who can solve the mystery. When no one can decipher it, the queen suggests they call for Daniel.

The Condemnation of the King (vv 13-28) – Daniel tells Belshazzar the story of Nebuchadnezzar's arrogance, repentance and restoration. He says Belshazzar should have known better than to have exalted himself, desecrated the sacred treasures from the temple and blasphemed the Most High God. After this, he interprets the inscription.

The King is Dead, Long Live the King (vv 29-31) – Daniel was promoted to third-in-charge. Belshazzar was killed. The Babylonian Empire was conquered by the Medes and Persians. Daniel continued to serve during the reign of King Cyrus of Persia (cf Daniel 1:21)

Claiming Our Constitutional Rights

America said:
"It's About Time"

President Barack Obama & VP Kamala Harris
2008 & 2012 2020



President Obama is America's first Black POTUS. Vice President Kamala Harris is the first woman of color elected to national office.

They said:
"The Time is Now"

Shirley Chisholm & Jesse Jackson
1972 1984 & 1988



Chisholm was the first Black candidate to seek the Democratic nomination for President. Jackson placed 3rd in 1984 and 2nd in 1988.

She said:
"Time is Up"
Fannie Lou Hamer
1964



"Sick and tired of being sick and tired"
Democratic National Convention