



The book of Daniel is not telling us that if you trust God and pray you will never be eaten by lions or get burned in a furnace.

Daniel is not a prophecy manual that explains everything that you read in headlines. Remember, the whole Bible is about God first and us second. So this is the story of God at work.

<sup>1</sup>In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

<sup>2</sup> And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

<sup>3</sup> Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—

<sup>4</sup> young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.

<sup>5</sup> The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

<sup>6</sup> Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

Daniel and his friends did not abandon their faith in God when taken away to Babylon.

(v. 8-16)

Daniel and his friends stand out as humble, respectful, hard working and very gifted young men living in a totally new world.

(v. 4-5, 15-21)

People who live with integrity never become bitter or angry because of the challenges they face. People who live with integrity can be true to their convictions without being a jerk or mean spirited.

People who live with integrity seek to excel at whatever they are called to do.

