

# 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.

### A Time to Stand

*Daniel 3:8-30*

**Lesson Aim:** To encounter the transformative power of lifestyle evangelism and personal testimony

**Recap: Daniel 1** <sup>7</sup>The palace master gave them other names: Daniel he called Beltshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the royal rations of food and wine, so he asked the palace master to allow him not to defile himself.

<sup>17</sup> To these four young men God gave knowledge and skill in every aspect of literature and wisdom; Daniel also had insight into all visions and dreams.

<sup>19</sup> and the king spoke with them. Among them all, no one was found to compare... <sup>20</sup> he found them ten times better

### Transformers Rather Than Conformers (Romans 12:1 & 2)

- 4 bright young men from Israel-Palestine are carried away from their homeland, where worship of "the God of heaven" was a way of life (Daniel 1:3)
- Their captor, King Nebuchadnezzar attempts to indoctrinate them into Babylonian culture (Daniel 1:4)
- Their names are changed (Daniel 1:7)
- They refuse to compromise their characters, customs and beliefs (Daniel 1:8)
- Their obedient faithfulness to God makes others around them curious about God (Daniel 1:10-16)

### Divinely & Differently Gifted (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

- God gifts Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah with extraordinary knowledge and skill (Daniel 1:17 & 19)
- Their gifts distinguish them for service in high places in the king's court (cf Proverbs 18:16)



**STRONGER  
WISER  
BETTER**

## The Transformative Power of Communal Prayer & Personal Testimony

### Nightmares & New Leaders

Nebuchadnezzar has a distressing dream that no one can interpret. He issues a decree to kill all of the wise men in Babylon. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah pray and God reveals the dream to Daniel. When Daniel interprets the dream for the King, he glorifies God. As a result, the wise men's lives are spared and the pagan king declares that Daniel's God is, "God of gods and Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries." Daniel and his friends were promoted to enviable positions.



### Sweet Hour of Prayer

In seasons of distress and grief,  
My soul has often found relief,  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,  
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

### Promises of Prayer

Matthew 6:6-7  
James 1:5

### Power of Testimony

John 4:39

## Daniel 3 • A Time to Stand

**Conceit & Conformers** (vv 1-7) – In Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2, his kingdom was represented by a head of gold. In an attempt to make himself more than God says he is, Nebuchadnezzar erects an entire statue of gold and commands that everyone worship it. The Babylonians do so without objection.

**Haters aka Informers** (vv 8-12) – Some of the envious leaders, whose lives were saved by Daniel in chapter 2, go to the king complaining about Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abendego). They wanted their positions of power.

**Nonconforming Transformers** (vv 13-30) - Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abendego) refuse to bow down to an idol god. Their {But if not} faith in God causes them to obey the first commandment, trusting and believing that God is able to deliver them (Exodus 20:1-6, Isaiah 41:10-13 & 43:1-13a). They feared God more than Nebuchadnezzar, (Psalm 118:6, Matthew 10:28). The men throwing them into the furnace were consumed by the fire. Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abendego) were blessed by God with fellowship (a fourth person in the furnace who "has the appearance of a god") and freedom (being called out of the furnace). Their disobedience to the earthly king and divine deliverance by the King of kings prompted Nebuchadnezzar to worship their God.

## A Courageous Young Man • US Rep. John Lewis • "Good Trouble"



SNCC Protest – Montgomery, AL  
1964



Bloody Sunday – Selma, AL  
March 7, 1965



Presidential Medal of Freedom  
Feb 15, 2011

## A Worldwide Reckoning



Sparked May 25, 2020  
Murder of George Floyd  
Recorded by Darnella Frazier