



## **BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS INC.**

[www.bibleradio.org.au](http://www.bibleradio.org.au)

BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1566 ~ Four Captive Boys.**

---

*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

Each year, flocks of birds fly from their feeding areas in autumn to places with milder climates. Here they wait out the snowy months of winter until they can return to their feeding grounds and build their nests again. Some bird species migrate thousands of miles each year. Our Creator God has programmed these bird instincts so well that they'll return to the same spot they were feeding in the previous year.

The people of God migrated a few times in their long history in the Old Testament of the Bible. The first migration started when Abraham was called by God to leave his people in the city of Ur on the Euphrates River and go where God was guiding him. Abraham obeyed God, even though he didn't know where God was taking him. He travelled most of the length of the Euphrates River before turning southwest through the eastern coastal regions of the Mediterranean Sea, down to the Nile River region in Egypt and then back to the promised land of Canaan.

Abraham's grandson Jacob took his family to Egypt to escape a 7-year drought in the land that became known as Israel. Over 400 years later under Moses' leadership, God moved the Israelites back to their promised land. He gave them that land on the condition that they would be true to Him. If they didn't trust and obey Him, He promised to take them out of the land again.

Following many warnings over sin and idolatry, God exiled the northern nation of Israel to Assyria in 721 BC. These Israelites never returned to their land again. God's promise of a never-ending rule for King David's descendants thus depended on the southern kingdom of Judah staying true to Him. Many prophets were sent to the kings of Judah and the people to encourage them to keep worshipping Almighty God, their help in times of trouble. The last of these prophets was Jeremiah. He warned the Judean people that Jerusalem would soon fall to the Babylonian army but this time, the people didn't believe him.

Jeremiah encouraged the people to believe God's promise that He would bring them back to their land again by buying a plot of ground and storing away the title deeds very carefully. He himself wouldn't benefit from the purchase but it was a sign that the people could have faith in God's promises.

When Babylon attacked and destroyed Judah in 588 BC, the conquered slaves of Judah were moved in three stages to the city of Babylon, a journey on foot which covered over 600 miles. Only the poor people were allowed to remain in the countryside of Judah. Daniel was among the first group of captives to leave Judah in 605 BC. He and his three friends were probably teenagers at the time.

---

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

---

Once the captives arrived in Babylon, many settled down in farming communities with conditions that were not harsh. Some Judeans like Daniel and his friends became important in the court of the king of Babylon.

So, why did God take the people of Judah from their promised land to Babylon? For over 400 years, the people had not obeyed God's command to rest all the farmed land every seventh year. This is recorded in the Old Testament book of Leviticus, Chapter 25. God used this resting of the farming land to show that He would provide for the people that year if they did not grow anything. It was a test of faith to trust Him.

Constant farming depletes the soil of nutrients and the crops grown in it become poorer in quality and subject to insect pests over time. The Judean captives remained in Babylon for 70 years and this time gave the soil the rest it needed.

God chose Babylon to be the Judean people's home in exile to teach them about idol worship. The people of Judah had wanted to worship carved statues of gods that were unable to walk or hear or speak. The Lord spoke through the prophet Isaiah in Chapter 46 of his book, saying: "To whom will you liken Me and make Me equal and compare Me, that we may be alike?" And in Chapter 40, God said: "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not faint or grow weary; there is no searching of His understanding."

The Judean captives found Babylon was crowded with idol statues everywhere. If the Judean people wanted to reject their mighty Creator to worship useless statues instead, they could have their fill of statues in Babylon. But they didn't! When the people returned back to Judah, they stopped making idols.

The people of God these days can make idols too by how they regard the Lord God in their minds. Wrong ideas about God can lead us to think of God more like an easy-going indulgent grandfather than a God of holiness who is unable to have sin in His presence. People tend to reduce God's character to their size to make God more comfortable to them and to their way of life.

In our imagination, we can picture God in heaven as being different from what we read of Him in the Scriptures. God looks for our absolute trust in Him, no matter what the difficulties of our lives are at any given time. Even in times of tragedy, accept that God knows best and is working in our lives according to His purposes.

We can't expect Him always to give us an answer to our question: "why?" Some things we will never understand this side of heaven.

Yet we can say confidently with Job in Chapter 13 of his book: "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." Is this too difficult for us to do? We need to pray for spiritual growth and depend on Him to help us to mature our love in Him.

God's sovereignty is supreme! He isn't an absentee landlord but instead, an attentive carer of His workmanship. Daniel understood this when he declined the King of Babylon's food after it had been dedicated to idols. Daniel didn't want to offend his watchful God by doing something small that displeased or dishonoured Him. Daniel wanted God's blessings in such uncertain times. In Daniel's book, Chapter 1, it says that God gave Daniel and his three friends, knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom. They received God's favour because they were faithful to Him.

It is true that if we seek good habits in the little things, it'll be easier to do the right thing in really big decisions. The Lord Jesus in one of His last parables spoke about faithfulness in little things. In Luke's Gospel, Chapter 19, He told a story about three servants who were given three months' wages to trade with while their master was away on a long trip.

When the master finally returned, he called in his servants to give an account of their work while he'd been away. The first of the servants brought in what he had been given and what he had earned. He had managed to double the money entrusted to him. His master said: "Well done, good servant, because you were faithful in very little, have authority over ten cities."

Have you realized that a day is coming when all of us must give an account of what we have done with our lives? In the New Testament book of Romans, Chapter 14, it says: "Each of us shall give account of himself to God." On that day, will we stand strong and unashamed of how we spent our time on earth? Have we allowed idols to creep in between us and God?

There will be no secrets hidden then and all will be revealed. It's far better to come before God each day while we can, confessing our sins and asking for help to live His way. If you never understood the Lord Jesus Christ's redeeming work to take away all your wrongdoing in your life, ask Him today to be your Saviour from sin and to guide you always in His way of truth.

---

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

---

That was Guy Penrod singing "My God shall supply all your needs."

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

---

< END OF SCRIPT >

---