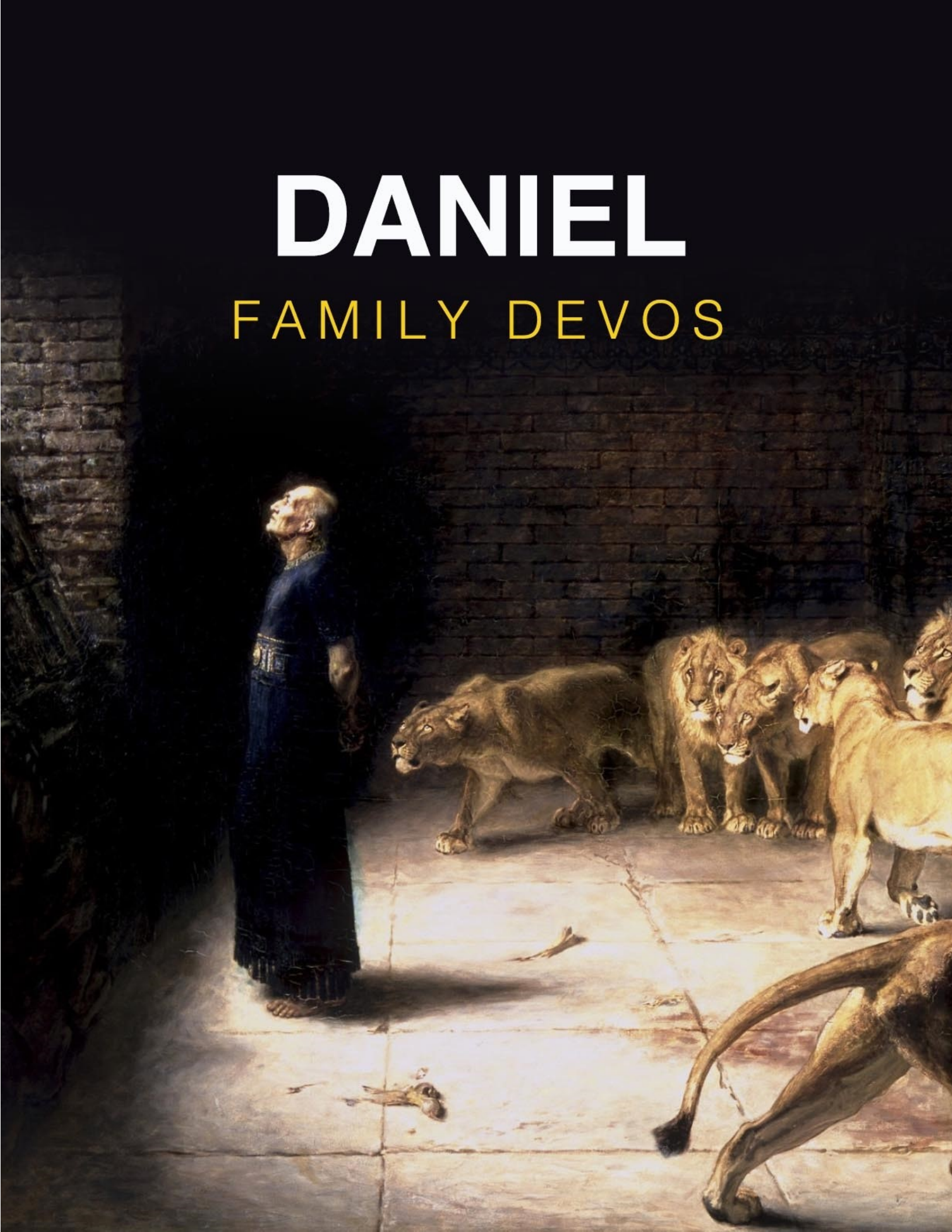


DANIEL

FAMILY DEVOS



The Exile

Scripture: Daniel 1:1-2

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:9

“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain Salvation through Jesus Christ.”

For My Family:

In our study of the Judges, we saw this cycle of sin, where no matter what the Lord did to reveal Himself to the people and prove that He was the One True God, the Israelites continued to turn away and worship false gods. This is a sin called idolatry, when you worship something (in this case an actual statue) instead of God. Sadly, this was a pattern that the children of Israel could not break free from. They continued to worship idols and turn away from God all through the book of Judges and right through the reign of the kings of Israel. They even began to reject the law of God by ignoring the Sabbath, among other things. We have seen God judge the Philistines in the story of Samson, the Midianites in the story of Gideon, and the Canaanites in the story of Deborah. Now we are looking at God bringing judgment to His own people.

In Deuteronomy 28, the Lord made His people a promise before they entered into the land. He told them that He was a just God, who could have no sin before Him. If the people followed His commandments and walked in His ways, He would bless them and keep them safe. But if they turned away from Him, “The LORD will exile you and your king to a nation unknown to you and your ancestors. There in exile you will worship gods of wood and stone” (Deut 28:36). Remember when we said that God cannot lie? Well, the Lord had made His people a promise, and He always keeps His promises. The people continued to reject God, and the Lord in fact did do exactly what He said and raised up a nation to overthrow His own people and take them captive to a land called Babylon.

You might think that this would cause God’s people to sulk or pout and get upset, like maybe you do when you get reprimanded for doing the wrong thing. Instead, the story of Daniel is about how the people turned back to God in captivity, especially four certain young men: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, who we will look at next time.

The BIG truth that we are reminded about from the first two verses of Daniel is that God cannot let sin go unpunished, even if it is from His own chosen people. Thankfully for you and me, God has already punished our sin. When Jesus died on the cross, He took our place and our punishment, paying the penalty for our sin. God will never need to exile us. In fact, instead of sending us away from our home, Jesus’ death on the cross paves the way for us to come to our forever home, Heaven, and be with out forever King, Jesus.

Questions for Young Children:

Why did God punish His own children, the people of Israel?

How did God punish the children of Israel?

What did God do for us so that we would never be exiled like people of Israel?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

The children of Israel were punished for their sin and they turned back to God in exile. When you do something wrong and receive a punishment, how do you respond to it?

Was it right for God to punish His people in this way? Why or why not?