

August 13 Answers

- 1) Nebuchadnezzar's **first** siege of Jerusalem occurred in early 605 BC. God gave Judah one last chance to repent by having Jeremiah's prophecies written on a **scroll** and read in the temple courts. Many months later, around December 605, Baruch read the scroll in the temple again, and this time Micaiah heard it. He told the court officials, and Jehudi read the scroll to Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim, however, rejected the message and **burned** the scroll. This teaches us that God gives people, even those who refuse to listen, every chance to repent before the end. Those who perish in judgment have only **themselves** to blame. Many of Judah's finest young men, such as **Daniel**, were exiled to Babylon. Daniel and his three friends paid the price for Judah's stubborn refusal to repent. Clearly, righteous living does not always **protect** us from the sinful decisions of others. Daniel made up his mind to remain faithful to God, even at great risk to himself. His **appeal** to the overseer is a great example of how to stand for the truth while respecting those in authority over us. When dealing with a similar situation, we should: (1) avoid being **combative** or contentious, (2) discern the true **intentions** of our authority, (3) if possible, design a creative **alternative** which will achieve their goals, (4) appeal to our authority in a **respectful** way, (5) **pray** and give God time to change their mind, (6) be willing to **suffer**, if necessary, for keeping our conscience clear. If Daniel, who was likely a teenager when taken captive, can obey God in such circumstances, then surely we can obey God too!