The Story: Chapter Eighteen

Daniel in Exile

Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king's house. All that Solomon had planned to do in the house of the Lord and in his own house he successfully accomplished. **12**Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. **13**When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, **14**if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.  2 Chronicles 7:11-14

**Lower Story Synopsis:**

* The line of kings has **failed**.
* The 10 Northern Tribes of Israel are only a **memory**.
* There are **wars** taking place in and around Judah.
  + Babylonians and Medes conquer Assyria
  + Josiah (the last good king of Judah) killed by the Egyptians
  + Babylon (Prince Nebuchadnezzar) defeats Egypt (Battle of Carchemish)
  + 1st deportation of Jews to Babylon (on his way home to take the throne)
  + Judah joins with Egypt against Babylon
  + Babylon (King Nebuchadnezzar) battles against joint forces
  + 2nd deportation of Jews to Babylon
  + Babylon utterly destroys Jerusalem and Solomon’s Temple
  + 3rd deportation of Jews to Babylon

**Upper Story Understanding:**

* Daniel (Belteshazzar), Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abednego)
  + Taken to Babylon in the 1st deportation (*The Story*, p. 249)
  + “Life or Death” challenges:
    - Eat the food: **death for them and the official**
    - Interpret the dream: **death for them and all the wise men of Babylon**
    - Bow down to false gods: **death for them and the soldiers**
    - Pray only to the king: **death for Daniel or the crew of connivers**
  + Marks of a Disciple
    - Remain **undefiled**
    - Live as **aliens**
    - Utilize God’s **gifts**
    - Live by **faith in God** (not for an **outcome)**
    - Pray **consistently**
    - Be **devoted** to the One you are called to follow

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, **26**“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. **27**Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. **28**For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? **29**Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, **30**saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ **31**Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? **32**And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. **33**So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.Luke 14:25-33