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Reading Notes

myrrh blossoms  balm of Gilead; used in perfume and incense

tetrarch  governor of one-fourth of a country in Roman Empire

bar  Aramaic for “son”
synagogue  Jewish place of meeting for worship or religious study
rabbi  master; person trained in Jewish law, ritual, and tradition
scribe  copyist of manuscripts and documents
Zealot  member of a Jewish movement in the 1st century A.D. that fought against Roman rule
legionaries  members of Roman legion, which consisted of 3,000-6,000 infantry and 100-200 cavalry

Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. splashed with *burgeoning* thickets of oleander. ____________________________________________
2. splashed with burgeoning thickets of *oleander*. ____________________________________________
3. He looked down at his bare *calloused* feet _______________________________________________
4. his back still raw from the last *flogging*. ________________________________________________

*Look up “burgeon” in the dictionary, and write out the complete definition, the alternate forms, and 2-3 synonyms. ______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Expressions for Discussion

1. “No one is free. So long as the land is cursed by the Romans.”

2. “All the mighty ones. Joshua, Gideon, David, all of them fought on the soil of Galilee. No one could stand against them. It will be so again.”
Comprehension Questions
Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. Why is Daniel “puzzled and uneasy” about the two strangers climbing the mountain? 
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

2. How does Daniel know that Joel is not a coward? 
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

3. Why would the men in the cave have “hooted” if they could see Daniel washing his hands before a meal? 
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

4. How does Joel’s view of the Romans differ from Malthace’s view? 
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

5. How is Daniel able to show Joel and Malthace that he is not an ignorant savage or simply a runaway slave? 
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

Discussion Questions / Enrichment

1. Where do you think the Jewish ritual of handwashing before a meal originated?

2. Was being a rabbi a full-time occupation?

3. Why do the Jewish people have such animosity towards the Romans?