

Daniel Chapter 1

Chapters 1 – 4

Daniel under Nebuchadnezzar

Part 1

Chapters 1 – 6

Six 6 Stories about Daniel that demonstrate his WISDOM in living under a hostile government. Their Faith in God under death threatening conditions

Part 2

Chapters 2 6-12

Different visions God gave to Daniel. These visions give the future of the Jewish people and their domination by different Gentile Kingdoms in History.

Character of Daniel and his deportation:

How would you be under deportation?

How will you be as America changes?

Personal History of the Prophet

Daniel 1:1-21

WISDOM of FAITH

As we are going to see, when you live by Faith, Faith will direct decisions you make in your life.

Daniel 1:1-2

Historical setting; God uses historical events to move us where He desires us to be:

Chaldean invasion-beginning of Judah's Exile:

Captivity of Jerusalem

Daniel 1:1 ¶ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.”

605 bc

vs1 “In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah”

Jehoiakim

Jehoiakim reigned began 609 bc to 606 bc; He was the 18th king of the Southern Kingdom.

Jehoiakim means *Jehovah has set up; Jehovah raises up*; his name was Eliakim “*whom God has established*”; --both names refer to fact that God has raised him up under judgment. He was made king of Judah in place of his father by Pharaoh-Neco-King of Egypt.

Nebuchadnezzar pursued Pharaoh- Neco and defeated him at Carchemish, and upon his return to Babylon captured Jerusalem, taking sacred articles from the Temple of the Lord and carrying them to the idolatrous temple of Bel in Babylon.

2 Chronicles 36:6-7

He left Jehoiakim as a vassal king

2 Kings 24:1 and Jeremiah 25:1

You will recall from last week’s reading that he was enemy of Jeremiah and actually destroyed the scroll, written by Jeremiah from the Lord.

He rejected the Word of God and rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar and ran to Egypt for help.

2 Kings 24:1 “In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant *for three years*; then he turned and

rebelled against him.”

Jehoiakim came to a violent end as prophesied, and his body was thrown over the wall, perhaps to show the enemy that he was dead. It was afterward taken away and given an dishonorable burial in 597 bc.

Jeremiah 22:18-19; 36:30 and 2 Kings 24:3

Notes abstracted from Merrill Unger’s New Bible Dictionary

This was during the

1st deportation of Jews to Babylon in 605 bc

2nd was in 598 bc when Ezekiel was taken to Babylon

3rd deportation was in 586 bc, which marks the beginning of 70 years captivity

Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem & besieged it

First let’s look at his name ... It comes from the ancient god

Nebo of planet **Mercury**. He was regarded as the chief protector; **Nebo** was the lord of brightness; the original fire; and he was powerful in ancient Chaldean society; The name

Nebuchadnezzar means **may Nobo protect**. We have done a great deal of study of NEAM gods; Satan copied the meaning of the true God and gave it to gods of myths.

- 1a. in 625 Nebuchadnezzar united the 5 clans of the Chaldeans and took control of Babylon
- 1b. 612 Nebuchadnezzar was challenged by and defeated the great Assyrian Empire
- 1c. 606 Egypt challenged Nebuchadnezzar and was defeated at Carchemish
- 1d. he co-ruled with his father Nebopolasser and while pursuing Pharaoh Necho that he received news that his father had died, and it was while Nebuchadnezzar was in pursuit of Pharaoh

Necho that Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem; 605 bc and took hostages -- including 15 year old Daniel

605 bc

vs2 “And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand...”

As Nebuchadnezzar passed he saw Jerusalem and remembered a story about the wealth of this city of Jerusalem and

- 1) besieged it
- 2) surrounded it and
- 3) demanded its surrender . . .

which they did

Note The Sovereignty of God, the True God is active in history of Judah -- and all nations! “...along with some of the vessels of the house of God;...” God of Judah “...& he brought them to the land of Shinar,...”

Shinar introduces the Spiritual Warfare between God & Satan.

Notice two words,

Shinar in verse 2 and **Babylon** in verse 1.

The Holy Spirit uses these words in order to draw attention to the fundamental battle between man and God.

First, in verse 1 Babylon in the English is incorrect, in the Hebrew text it is **Babel**.

Babel is used in Genesis 10:10 and 11:9;

Shinar is used in Genesis 10:10 and 11:2.

So to grasp the significance of Babel and Shinar, turn there.

This is an extremely significant place on the earth.

The poles of conflict on the earth are Jerusalem versus Babylon. Both are primary centers on earth in Genesis and in Revelation.

Genesis 10:11 “From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-ir and Calah,”

Nineveh was a late building of Nimrod, Shinar came first.

10:8 “Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth.”

10:9 “He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD.”

10:10 “And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.”

Shinar means two rivers or wholly severed, divided mind; **Shinar** is the country through which the rivers Tigris and Euphrates flow.

Nimrod is the first king over a kingdom that the Bible records in history. This represents the kingdom of man. From this we see the development of man against God throughout Scripture. From this point Babel represents paganism, the best, the highest, the greatest of human intellect, culture, the best of the wisdom of man. The most powerful expression of everything antithetical to God's plan for mankind and for history.

T

he roots of anti-Christianity began at **Babel** with the first attempt to form a one world government.

Genesis 11:2 “And it came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.”

11:3 “And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly. And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.”

11:4 “And they said,”Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name; lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

The Tower of Babel was to act as an insurance policy to protect the people from another flood.

Josephus records that **Nimrod** convinced the people that this would protect them from the judgment of God in history. It was designed to escape divine judgment of the people from another flood.

Here is the wisdom of man trying to escape the judgments of God. Mankind is always looking for **SOME SYSTEM, SOME PROGRAM, SOME POWER** that will protect him from the intrusion of God in the decisions of everyday life, in ethics, morality, politics and the affairs of man. Man desires to do whatever he wishes without threat of divine retribution.

But God laughs at the rebellion of man.

Genesis 11:5 “And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.”

11:6 “And the LORD said, “Behold they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them”

11:7 “Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.”

If you want to define ever changing events in human history this is one of them. From this point on the human race is fragmented, races, colors, languages etc. It destroyed man's ability to communicate and to think alike.

All through history man will try to produce a perfect Kingdom on earth without God, apart from God. This will be brought out in Daniel 2, with the prophesy of Gentile nations through what remains of human history.

Again and again fragmented Babel tries to assert itself and reestablish man's objectives without God.

The Kingdom of God is always countered by Kingdom of Satan, which is Kingdom of Darkness put forth in mankind

- 2a. Man always strives to reestablish the goals of Babel. Every great political leader has tried to do this. Why? Man wants an autonomous destiny. A nation independent of God and free from divine interference. Man continuously tries to establish his social, intellectual, political existence independent of God

and free from the authority of His Word. (*USA today*)

- 2b. This striving is so powerful today: The United Nations with its **Agenda 21**; Muslims goal of a **Muslim world**; Mormons have their goal of ruling the world, the Roman church has its goal of RCC world.

Christianity has no such goal, it is individual salvation and individuals living their lives as unto the Lord. (Peter's drawn sword)

- 2c. **Formation:** always by conquest, by force. Nimrod sets the pattern. It is not based on consent by the individual, but compelled through force.

So

force,

deception,

lies,

power politics

goes along with this nation without God.

Kingdom of Man.

Always by enslavement of the individual.

State is almighty.

(in USA—must disarm America)

- 2d. Morality is always subjective; the state determines what is right and wrong. Majority dictatorship or dictatorship by the one or the few. Never determined by Word of God.

So the bible must be eliminated
TAKEN OUT of education,
TAKEN OUT of Jurisprudence and
for all practical purposes
TAKEN OUT of the churches.

- 2e. Control the whole world. United Nation's **Agenda 21** is for the whole world. Muslim control is of the whole world. This by increase increasing state power. The State substitutes itself for divine control The State seeks to provide a perfect world, the state will provide all man needs from the womb to the grave. It will solve all man's problems by force, by drugs, by education.

Daniel 1:2 "...to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels of the Lord God into the treasury of his god."

Look at 5:3 "Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which was in Jerusalem; and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them."

This is Satan's desire to bring the treasures of God into his Kingdom. And what are the treasures of God?

You
every believer

**Fulfillment of the Word of God;
Daniel in 1:1-2 records the fulfillment of the prophecy given by
Isaiah – temple vessels taken to Babylon.**

Isaiah 39:5-7

Verse 5

Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD of hosts,

Verse 6

‘Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing will be left,’ says the LORD.

Verse 7

‘And *some* of your sons who will issue from you, whom you will beget, will be taken away, and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.’”

Daniel Chapter 1

Verses 3 – 7

Daniel 3-7 Selection of those taken into captivity and preparation of the four great young men of history.

Nebuchadnezzar is an excellent example of how Satan is trying to bring in the Kingdom to counter God, while Daniel gives the wisdom on how the believer is to live in such a man-centered society.

Verse 3 “Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, 12-15 years, including some of the royal family and of the nobles, of Judah.”

Ashpenaz Persian name: horses nose—(don't know why parents named him horses nose!)

The chief of his officials,
he was a prince, but not in line of Kingship
King James the master of his eunuchs
New International Version chief of his court officials

The Hebrew word **sariys** does not mean ‘eunuch’. it means court official, from the Assyrian meaning... one who is head or chief. It came to be used for eunuchs because often this person was castrated for two reasons:

1st to protect the harem;

2nd focus on their responsibilities and on securing positions for their offsprings.

The word is used of Potiphar in Genesis 37:6, who was married so it does not in itself refer to one who is emasculated.

Some like to think that Daniel and his 3 friends were castrated, but there is no biblical or historical documented proof and is highly doubted due to the ‘no defect’ criterion.

“To bring in some of the sons of Israel, 12-15 years, including some of the royal family and of the nobles, of the royal family of kings of Judah.”

Fulfillment of the Prophecy of Isaiah to Hezekiah Isa. 39:7.

This was prophesied some 200 years earlier, so Daniel was familiar with this prophecy, and like Mary, knew what was going on.

(This is a historical importance of parents teaching children the Word of God)

Plato tells us that age 14 was the standard age for Persian training.

Selection profile: And you will note emphasis on outer beauty and inner strength .

We could spend hours on verse 4 alone, but let us the note essentials

Course of study—

Verse 4 “youths in whom was no physical defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence.” The Hiphil is used to indicate that these youths were caused to understand things, they had the ability to **learn in every branch of wisdom**, Math, science, astrology, and history.

They were ENDOWED WITH UNDERSTANDING, on how things worked or (function) this means to think critically and DISCERNING KNOWLEDGE; to Observe-to pay attention to everything; to understand in the causative sense; the ability to learn and apply what they learned; to think critically in many areas; to reason through a complex arrangement of ideals to solve problems in a wise manner...

This is where math is so vital to young people’s ability to think.

“Information is not Knowledge & Knowledge is not Wisdom”

This is where 1 Corinthians 1-4, it is so vital to one's ability to think from a Divine perspective.

And who had ability for serving in the king's court; Servants attitude; the heart of a servant; poise, leadership, & awareness and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. Now we come to heart of brainwashing!

To teach is one of the many Piels in chapter one; this refers to intense teaching and study; learning a great deal in a short time; no time off to watch TV or i-pads or hang out etc.. **intense, strict learning.**

To teach them the literature
Babylonian philosophy, rel. writings;

Learn Chaldean and learn it quickly (no Rosetta course;)

You have to have a good ear to hear and repeat; it means not just to learn a language but to be able to think in that language.

Think, speak & act like a Chaldean

They learned Chaldean by reading and learning Chaldean philosophy and religion and astrology.

Why deportation & Chaldean brainwashing?

- 1) control the puppet king and people left behind.
- 2) In this way he could consolidate his kingdom—Egypt, Tyre, etc
- 3) build a strong governing staff, with the best men around him. (RR)

Here we see how education is always at the heart of brainwashing.

Change history to fit your brainwashing objective.

Take these young men away from their heritage, from their country, from the foundation of their faith. Remove them from Israel & the

God of Israel. We have and are seeing this in America today. While they cannot take us away from our history, they seek to take our history away from our children. They are re-writing and developing foreign interpretations of our own history.

The goal of one world government did not end with Nimrod at Babel but continues tight up to history today, and will continue through the Tribulation.

This is what Hitler tried to do, this is what the Communist are trying to do today; and the Muslims today.

By the way for your historical and biblical frame of reference this also happened to Joseph and Moses, both into Egyptian cultures.

Their provisions

Verse 5 “And the king appointed for them a daily ration” *appointed* is in the Piel—intense- Nebuchadnezzar is in control and overseeing every detail: these are no ordinary prisoners! from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, they were to have the best food; the *wine* best of its day; only there is one problem: much of this food was unclean to Jews! Which is going to present a problem.

Intense education program

And “appointed” (another intensive Piel)—“that they should be educated” (another intensive Piel) “three years,” (not 4 yrs with summers off; the Piel-- crash program; & time to see if they had any diseases & time to see if they could learn & think under pressure.)

“At the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service.”

3 year graduate study

When a government pays all your bills, you owe that government.

Now history closes in on 4 young men taken captive
Name change –identity in your name!

Everything he is doing is designed to change these young men from Judaism to Chaldean!

And he knew that Jewish names often carried Spiritual meanings...
their names had to be changed.

Just studying verses 6-7 could take several hours...

6 “Now among them from the sons of Judah (some from the line of David) were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael & Azariah.”

These young men were named and brought up by Godly parents

7 “Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach, & to Azariah Abed-nego.

It is interesting how through the Church Age their Babylonian names are well remembered but not their Jewish names!

HEBREW name	Meaning	CHALDEAN name	Meaning
DANIEL	God is judge	BELTESHAZZAR	Prince of Bel
HANANIAH	The Lord is gracious	SHADRACH	Illumined by the Sun god
MISHAEL	Who, What is the Lord	MESHACH	Who, what is the goddess of love
AZARIAH	The Lord is my aid	ABED-NEGO	Servant of the god of wisdom and education

Principle

The Babylonians goal was to destroy who they were and to brainwash them through education and identification.

How to overcome brainwashing (public schools)

Daniel Chapters 8 thru 16

Chapters 8-16 Faithfulness of Daniel

Daniel’s stand;
Loyalty to Jehovah,
No compromise;

Wisdom on how to live in an anti-Christ society and yet
Maintain your Walk in the Wisdom of God.

At 15 these young men understood
what many adults do not understand

commitment!

Verse 8 “But Daniel made up his mind“

The battle is in the mind

Daniel assessed all that was going on and
made a decision in his mind.

Each of us must make up our minds about
Jesus Christ,
The Word of God and
The Holy Spirit;

When you make up your mind, it should direct your actions and future thoughts.

This means he made a decision and
no matter the cost,
no matter if it meant his life,
he made up his mind as to what he was going to do.
“that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine
which he drank;”

This is food from the King's table, exactly what he ate.

The Problem

Among the diet of the King was meat from animals sacrificed to the pagan gods of Babylon: Marduk, Nebo, Ishtar etc.

And wine that had first been offered to these gods and goddesses.

Therefore, for Daniel and for all Jews to partake of these was an act of disloyalty to God and a violation of the Mosaic Code;
Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14:3-21

Therefore, “Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the King's choice food or with the wine he drank;”

Note that even in pagan worship they offered the best, something that many Christians refuse to do today.

The next part of the verse reveals the Wisdom of Daniel:

pick your battles carefully

he did not resist the name change nor did he resist the education curriculum;
he makes his stand where it is in direct opposition to the Word of God.

Now we see the wisdom on how to take his stand.

“so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.”

made up his mind to please God, live or die.

Where does The Word of God, Learning Doctrine, fit in your mindset?

You will know by your life!

This is not a vegetarian passage!

It is not so much what he can eat as it is what he cannot eat

Note the all importance “that he might not defile himself;”

you make up your mind – faithful to God or deny Him or desert Him.

Here is a lesson for all of us—even in captivity, he knew he was still under the Sovereignty of God—the Law of God.

Where does this come from? Deuteronomy 32:37-39;

These foods & drink offered them was a libation to heathen gods

The Word of God must come first Deuteronomy 8:3
we must first **Know** the Word of God by study of it!
then **Believe** the Word of God
then **Live** the Word of God
and be ready for whatever the consequences may be

Daniel was not going to compromise the Word of God !

Will You?

Gal. 5:22-23 “...against such things there is no law”

Daniel’s responsibility is not to live but to honor W/G and it will be up to God if he lives or dies.

So Daniel asked permission not to eat!
not to defile
no arrogance
no rebellion
no crusade
he asked permission!

This teenager was respectful!

He did not rebel against the system he went through the system.

Note his argument: not on a spiritual or religion or scriptural reasoning, you cannot argue with unbelievers on the basis of Scripture. This is exactly why the Scriptures were first removed from the Judicial system in USA; and from the educational system It cannot serve as a basis of morality, to a people who have rejected it.

So we learn from Daniel,
we do not fight with our society on moral issues

we are not here to enforce biblical morality on the society,
our stand is on Jesus Christ and Him crucified and resurrected.

But we choose to live by a morality from the Bible, in regards to pre-marital Sex, Homosexuality-Lesbian Marriage, etc. Our witness is not about these things, our witness is about Jesus Christ and Him Crucified and Resurrected, but we make up our minds about how to live based on the bible.

God intervenes

Verse 9 “Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials,” Again, note Divine intervention Daniel was admired and respected by this official yet he was under Nebuchadnezzar who would have him executed for not obeying.

Daniel had a good testimony or witness before this man...
does your witness attract others or does it repulse them???

God caused this man to grant Daniel’s request.

Do you believe that God personally interacts into your life?

You should!

Our forefathers called this divine providence.

Favor and compassion—these flow downward and upward. We could reason that Daniel and his 3 friends earned this, but we are specifically told that God granted this. The official had gained respect and even admiration for these four young men.

Verse 10 “and the commander of the officials said to Daniel, I am afraid of my lord the king, (he has rank but lives in fear) who has appointed your food and your drink; (Nebuchadnezzar was in hands on control) for why should he see your faces looking more haggard than the youths who are your own age? (What we eat effects how we look) Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king.”

Your haggard face may cause me to lose my head!

Daniel’s solution!

Verse 11 “But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,”

Daniel is not disrespectful of the man’s dilemma, so he reasons with him on his own human level.

Verse 12 "Please test (intensive Piel, Daniel, knows this is intense to him in remaining faithful to His God and it is intense for this official in remaining loyal to his king) your servants (this is how he humbly sees himself before God and now before his captives; he is not afraid to refer to himself as) your servants... for ten days, (10 is the number of Spiritual Warfare and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink.”

Verse 13 "Then let our appearance be observed in your presence, and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see."

You make the decision!

Officials consent!

Verse 14 "So he listened to them (not just Daniel but all 4 of these young men are likeminded—choosing your friends. Remember that God the Holy Spirit is at work inside this chief official.) in this matter & tested them for ten days."

Daniel first made up his mind,
then
Daniel chose the areas of battle,
then
Daniel reasoned on the basis of Faith.

That God would honor His word.

This is the battle from Job...*will you **just trust me?***

Daniel made up his mind that he would **just trust Him.**

Victory of Faith 15-16

Verse 15 "and at the end of ten days their appearance seemed better and they were fatter (healthier) than all the youths who had been eating the king's choice food."

Be aware, some of these other youths were also Jewish, but they did not stay with Word of God they were not committed to the Word of God or to Lord.

Wisdom of the official

Verse 16 “So the overseer continued to withhold their choice food and the wine they were to drink, and kept giving them vegetables.

The Results 17-20

Faithfulness of God more Divine intervention

Verse 17 “and as for these four youths, God gave (graciously given, not earned nor deserved) them knowledge (academic knowledge; of secular subjects) and intelligence in every branch of literature (skill in learning secular literature) and wisdom; (in context this refers to Babylonian wisdom—but they were able by divine wisdom to apply Divine thinking, divine information to human circumstances)

We have seen Divine Intervention Divine Providence all through this 1st chapter, starting in verse 2

Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams.

Note carefully that Daniel is emphasized here, he is given an extra measure of grace. He was given the divine ability to interpret visions & dreams.

Although these men were instructed in techniques of dream interpretation as developed by the Babylonians, Daniel received his ability from God.

The Gift of prophecy was given to Daniel by and through the Holy Spirit.

Daniel has a special mission from God
Each of us have a special gift from God for His Service.

Note carefully...**God gave**

These young men stayed focused on God and on His Word; they had a lot of scripture...Jeremiah and Isaiah

People – we must be in the Word of God...daily, every day!

They prayed

God gave them all this knowledge and wisdom, not the Babylonian teachers. They learned facts from these learned men but it was God who gave him wisdom

But Daniel is given more grace as to visions and dreams.

We will have to study dreams later in this book, but for now it is God who gives to Daniel the ability to interpret visions and dreams.

There are all kinds of dreams.

Dreams basically come from one or three sources:

1. Your psychological state.
2. External stimuli these are the sources for most all our dreams no matter what people may claim. and
3. Supernatural

Final exam:

Verse 18 “Then at the end of the days which the king had specified for presenting them, the commander of the officials presented them before Nebuchadnezzar.

Verse 19 “and the king talked with them, and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's personal service.

God honors those who put His word first!

God promotes or He does not promote!

Don't try to promote yourself!

God has a plan for every life!

Learn to be content in whatever God does with you

Verse 20 “and as for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm.”

God uses prepared believers

Verse 21 “and Daniel continued until the 1st year of Cyrus the king