

Daniel Chapter 1

Verses 3 – 7

³ Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles,

⁴ youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every *branch of wisdom*, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and *he ordered him* to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

⁵ The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and *appointed* that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service.

⁶ Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

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 and to Azariah Abed-nego.

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 and 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