



— THE BOOK OF —
DANIEL

White Oak Worship Center
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Chapter 1

- ◆ vs. 1-2 — In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.
- ◆ “the Lord” gave him victory
 - ◆ he took some of the treasures back home with him, but not all
 - ◆ Shinar = Babylon

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- ◆ vs. 3-4 — Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah's royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives. 4 "Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men," he said. "Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge and good judgment, and are suited to serve in the royal palace. Train these young men in the language and literature of Babylon.
- ◆ Daniel was of the royal lineage
- ◆ the king wanted only the best for his court

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- ◆ vs 5-7 — And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. 6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: 7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.
- ◆ he wanted to spend 3 years grooming them, teaching them to be Babylonians — land, names, culture, language, food, ideas, beliefs, identity, everything! — they were to be brainwashed for 3 years
 - ◆ Daniel and his friends feared the God of all gods

New Names Given

- ◆ Daniel
 - ◆ God is my Judge
- ◆ Hananiah
 - ◆ Beloved of the Lord / the Lord shows grace
- ◆ Mishel
 - ◆ Who is as God
- ◆ Azariah
 - ◆ The Lord is My Help
- ◆ Belteshazzar
 - ◆ Prince of Bel / Bel protect his life
- ◆ Shadrach
 - ◆ Illumined by the sun god
- ◆ Meshach
 - ◆ Who is like unto the moon god
- ◆ Abednego
 - ◆ Servant of Negó, a shining fire

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- ◆ v 8 — But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.
- ◆ Daniel “purposed in his heart”
 - ◆ Satan wants us to conform to this world Rom 12:1-2 — I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Daniel 1

- ◆ Babylon was one the most pagan of empires in the known world, Daniel kept himself blameless before the Lord
- ◆ Prov 4:23 — Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. (ESV)
- ◆ we have to guard our heart above all else — keep it from impurities
- ◆ if we corrupt this spring with worldly things then it will quickly spread and hidden appetites will become open sins and public embarrassment

Daniel 1

- ◆ the Bible warns against
 - ◆ a double heart (Ps 12:2)
 - ◆ a hardened heart (Prov. 28:14)
 - ◆ a proud heart (Prov. 21:4)
 - ◆ an unbelieving heart (Heb. 3:12)
 - ◆ a cold heart (Matt. 24:12)
 - ◆ an impure heart (Ps. 51:10)

The king's meat...

- ◆ Eating meat wasn't the point — it was offered to idols first
- ◆ against Jewish law
- ◆ they didn't do that with vegetables

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- ◆ vs 9-12 — Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs. 10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king. 11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.
- ◆ “pulse” = vegetables grown from seeds
- ◆ Daniel requested a 10 day test to see how they would be afterward (10 can be a number of testing, measurement or testimony in the Bible)

Melzar's fear of Nebuchadnezzar

- ◆ Why would Melzar fear the king so much?
 - ◆ Nebuchadnezzar was known to:
 - ◆ put out eyes (Jer. 39:6, 7)
 - ◆ make their houses into dung hills (Dan 2)
 - ◆ roast officers over a fire (Jer 29:22)

Daniel 1

- ◆ vs 13-16 — Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants. 14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days. 15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. 16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

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- ◆ vs 17-20 — As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. 20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

These young men...

- ◆ they would have been 13-16 years old
- ◆ these four "out-classed" the king's magicians
 - ◆ staff advisors, advisors to the king, heavily in the occult, sacred scribes, astrologers, etc
- ◆ where did they learn discernment?
 - ◆ in Jerusalem
 - ◆ at home

These 4 young men...

- ◆ Discernment
- ◆ Resistance to evil
- ◆ Power to voice disagreement
- ◆ Physical courage
- ◆ Perseverance
- ◆ Determination
- ◆ Meekness
- ◆ Good sense

Daniel 1:20

- ◆ And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus
- ◆ 1st year of king Cyrus' reign was 539 B.C.
- ◆ Daniel was still alive in 537 B.C. (Dan 10:1 — In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia...)
- ◆ if Daniel was 15 years old in 605 then he would have been 83 when he received the visions of chapters 10-12

Daniel

- ◆ while reading the prophecy of Jeremiah (25:11; 29:10), Daniel understood God's plan for the Jews to return to the land and rebuild the temple and the city (Dan. 9:1-2); and he lived long enough to see this prophecy fulfilled
- ◆ during Daniel's life he had the opportunity to witness to Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, Belshazzar, and Cyrus

Personal Application

- ◆ when it comes to solving life's problems, we must ask God for:
 - ◆ courage
 - ◆ wisdom
 - ◆ strength
 - ◆ faith
- ◆ our motive must be the glory of God and not finding a way of escape

Never forget

- ◆ Matthew 28:20 — I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.
- ◆ throughout the book of Daniel:
 - ◆ we see that GOD is in control
 - ◆ He's involved in our lives; He's watching out for us; He's with us!