

Daniel



Lesson 3-The Characters and their Character

Focus: Daniel 1:1-21

❖ **Israel was taken into their captivity (v.1-2)**

- Again, “the third year of Jehoiakim King of Judah” would have been about **605 BC**.
- Israel had forsaken and “given up” the Lord and now the Lord had “given” them up into the hands of the King of Babylon. Their cities were “besieged” and many were taken captive to the land of Babylon.

❖ **The King of Babylon asked for “well favored” children from the Royal line to be trained up as his servants (v.3-7)**

- Some of these young people were likely from the line of King Hezekiah who had made a mistaken trust with the Babylonians years before (**Isaiah 39:6, 7**). *Daniel was only about 16 or 17 years old at this time. (And as we’ll soon see, God used him in a mighty way! Let us not underestimate the ability of consecrated youth when blessed by God).*
- The King of Babylon, the center of earthly power in the western/middle eastern world at this time, attempted to “give” three primary things to these young people.
 - **A three year Babylonian education** (v.4,5), with training in the Languages.
 - **The King’s food and wine** (v.5)
 - **New names representing the Babylonian gods** (v.6,7)
- The **Babylonians wanted to erase the prior identity** of these young men. They wanted to give them an entirely different mental training, an entirely different diet than they were used to, and entirely different names (representing the gods of Babylon). They hoped it may even change their religion. Names are important in the Bible and often represent character or our relationship to God.
- **Now Daniel had been raised by parents who were faithful to God.** *He had been well trained in matters of faith during his early years at home. This should have been the case for every young Jewish person (though it hadn’t been so for many). See Deuteronomy 6:6-9. Daniel had received a very thorough upbringing and home education in the Law and the Prophets! (knowledge of these truths were now and forever to guide his life through the dangers and peril’s of the idolatrous courts of Babylon)*
- **The Centers of the world’s philosophies and false sciences are so often in direct opposition to the truth of Heaven.** SATAN AIMS TO ERASE, if possible, the knowledge of God from every soul, through his worldly educational systems with their erroneous philosophies. He wants to erase our identities as the children of God, and tempt men to their destruction with forbidden and sinful allurements of his godless culture.
- *Certainly not everything in Babylon’s worldly school system was bad: Mathematics, the Languages, Speaking, etc. were fine. Spiritualistic, magical arts, etc. were not okay!*

- ❖ **Daniel made a faithful decision to God that forever changed the outcome of his future life and history (v.8, 9-16)**
 - **“...faithful in that which is least” (Luke 10:16).** Daniel might have argued with himself...*O I don't want to be picky...I don't want to “push my luck”. If I just compromise my principles a little bit, then I might make better friends with everyone around here. (but Daniel knew that he must be true to principle at all costs!)* **Daniel did not desire to be singular, but if that's what faithfulness to God required, then that he would do!**
 - (v.9-12) To remain faithful to God, **Daniel had to be pro-active!** He had to stand up and do something (both he and his friends counseled together and **determined** to be faithful at all costs). They prayed about it, and went forward to **make their request**. In this sinful world, we may often times **have to make “requests”** to others so that we can practice the will of God. (we don't always know how people might answer, but that is the first step!).
 - The master of the Eunuchs was a bit nervous at first, because this had not been done before, but decided to put God's principles to the test for these young people, at their request. **“Ye have not because ye ask not” (James 4:2).** Ask, pray, and watch!
 - **Daniel ate a simple and pure diet. He also spent much time in prayer, and put his trust in God, and His word.** (v.12,16). To these very things Daniel can attribute his amazing health, blessing of God, long life, and successfulness in his life. **God and the nature He created reward those who obey their Laws.**
- ❖ **The results of Daniel's faithfulness (v.17-21)**
 - *Daniel could understand visions and dreams (v.17). God blessed him incredibly!! Daniel and his friends all had very clear minds! God “gives” the natural blessings that come from heeding His words!*
 - (v.19,20) *“none like them....found them ten times better than all the...” Heeding the counsel of God's divine sciences is far more profitable than trying to merely follow the world's sciences. The Creator gives true wisdom in regard to logic and science. The “Magic arts” and philosophies of men cannot be compared to the revelations of God.*
 - *Daniel continued even to the “first year of king Cyrus” (v.21) the Persian. He outlived, even the kingdom of Babylon.*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Would you like to have a faithful character like Daniel and his friends and be blessed by God? _____