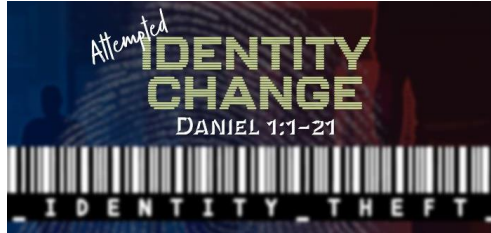


Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: *Daniel* – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Daniel 1:1-21 – *the king of Babylon attempts to steal your identity in God!*

Today's Message:

"Identity Change"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we began this exciting book, and we learned that Daniel is known as the political prophet. He deals with governments, government officials, nations, rulers, kings, and kingdoms. Because he is a prophet of the God of the universe, he sets dates and events in advance proving that our God is Lord of all. Today, we will learn that the king of Babylon had a **STRATEGY** for his takeover of God's people. The first step was to capture the young people and certain others. Then, he would begin to **CHANGE** their identity and feed them a steady diet of his *daily provisions*. Prophetically, God has revealed Satan's master plan to corrupt, change, and destroy God's people throughout history. The Christian who is ignorant of Satan's **DEVICES** and strategies will fall to them. This is God's message to you today...

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text Daniel 1:1-21

#1. The Fiendish Strategy – the king of Babylon tried to CHANGE their identity.

WHICH HE CARRIED INTO THE LAND OF SHINAR

- ✓ The Lord **GAVE** Jehoiakim king of Judah (*and Jerusalem*) into Nebuchadnezzar's hand.
 - God DELAYED his judgment due to Josiah's repentance and faithfulness.
 - Josiah's sons did that which was EVIL in the sight of the Lord. **2Chr 36**
 - God is not mocked; Jehoiakim chose the WRONG way of life. **Gal 6:7**
- ✓ The *king of Babylon* carried God's **VESSELS** into the *land of Shinar*. **Gen 10:10; 11:2**
 - He brought into the treasure house of his god. **Ex 40:9-10; 1Ki 8:4; Dan 5:1-4**
- ✓ The *king of Babylon* is a type or picture of Satan and his coming antichrist.
 - The devil wants to corrupt and destroy **YOUR** life. **Lk 22:31; 1 Pet 5:8**

"Vessels"
2 Tim 2:19-22
From our recent study, the *vessels* were God's people!

THE KING SPAKE UNTO ASPHENAZ THE MASTER OF HIS EUNUCHS

- ✓ The "*master of his eunuchs*" was to bring certain of God's people and children.
 - A word about "*eunuchs*" – a procedure intended to make a person asexual **and unable to produce children**. **2Ki 9:32; 20:18; Isa 39:5-7; Mt 19:12; Acts 8**

W1828 "eunuch"
A castrated male human.

NOTE: The 1st mention of "*eunuch*" in Bible is connected to JEZEBEL.

2023 VISION: *Hold the Fort!*
Making disciples and caring for souls!

NOTE: The Bible does *not* say Daniel was made a eunuch.

✓ **Eunuchs in the Ancient Middle East**

“Babylon is fallen” *Isa 21:9; Jer 51:8; Rev 14:8; 18:2*

According to Bible prophecy, **Babylon** is coming back – and its king will repeat history.

A Roman historian in the 4th century AD believed male castration had its origins during the reign of *Semiramis* (the wife of Nimrod and the powerful and influential Babylonian queen.) Images dating back to 3000+ BC have been found in **Uruk** (Erech in **Gen 10:10**; 60 miles NW of Ur – Abraham’s birthplace) and are associated with the Sumerian goddess Inanna (ISHTAR in the Babylonian religion and Assyrian), goddess of love and fertility. **They display human figures of THREE distinct varieties: men, women, and a group lacking hair and genitals** that, because of their appearance, one anthropologist has referred to them as “**GENDER-LESS**” figures.

Why is **GENDER** “transition” a top issue in America now? The king of Babylon is back!

✓ **Daniel 1:4** says the best of God’s young people had these characteristics:

W1828: “skillful”

Knowing; well versed; as a physician

- Children in whom was **no blemish, but well favoured** **2Pet 3:14; Rev 1:6**
- **Skillful in all WISDOM** (The right application or exercise of knowledge) **1Cor 1:30**
- **Cunning in KNOWLEDGE** (Well-instructed and skillful in knowledge) **2Tim 2:2**
- **Understanding SCIENCE** (They comprehended the true science of God) **1Cor 2:16**
- Such as **had ability in them to STAND in the king’s palace!** **Acts 5:20**
- The **EVIL** plan was to **teach them the learning and tongue of the Chaldeans!**
 - The **learning they taught** was different from God’s method. **Isa 55:6-9**
 - The **learning they taught** would **desecrate the word of God.** **Deut 6; Jer 5:1**
 - The **students would speak differently** when school was done. **Neh 13:24**

W1828: “cunning”

Skillful; well-instructed; acquired by experience

W1828: “science”

The comprehension or understanding of truth or facts by the mind

✓ **Daniel 1:7** says the prince changed their names – their **IDENTITY** – to Babylonian.

Psalm 139:14 says that you are fearfully and wonderfully made by your **Creator** – by Jesus Christ (**Jn 1:3**).

| God-given | Meaning | Changed | Meaning |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Daniel | <u>God is my judge</u> | Beltshazzar | Who <u>Bel</u> (Satan) favors |
| Hananiah | <u>Beloved of the LORD</u> | Shadrach | Illuminated by <u>sun god</u> |
| Mishael | <u>Who is as God</u> | Meshach | Who is like <u>Venus</u> |
| Azariah | <u>The LORD is my help</u> | Abednego | Servant of <u>Nebo</u> |

Satan wants to change YOUR identity. Has he?

#2. The Faithful Stand – Daniel purposed in his heart not to DEFILE himself.

BUT DANIEL PURPOSED IN HIS HEART THAT HE WOULD NOT DEFILE HIMSELF

✓ **Daniel’s obedience to God began in his HEART.**

W1828: “provisions”

Things provided; materials provided.

- **Jeremiah 17:9** says, “THE HEART is **deceitful** above things and **desperately wicked...**”
- **Prov 3:5** says, “**Trust in the LORD with all thine HEART... not...thine own understanding.**”
- **Prov 4:23** says, “**Keep THY HEART with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**”

✓ **Daniel was then faithful to God in his DAILY life.**

- The king of Babylon wanted to **corrupt him** with **WORLDLY provisions**.
- The God of Daniel wanted to **build him up** with **GODLY provisions**.

Has the world corrupted you with its daily provisions?

Ezek 14:14, 20 says, “**Though these three men, Noah, Daniel and Job, were in it...**”

✓ **Daniel and his friends were PROVEN by the world’s king, and God got the glory!**

- In all matters of wisdom and understanding, they were **10 TIMES BETTER!**
- The world is **the proving place** for faithfulness to God. How are you doing?

1 Peter 5:8 says, “**Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.**”

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Jesus Christ was also proven by the king (or god) of this world, and God got the glory!