



# Unshakable

*Thriving, no matter what life throws at you*

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— 4 young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. 5 The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. 6 Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.



# New Names

Daniel "God is my judge"

becomes Belteshazzar "Bel protects his life"

Hananiah "The LORD is grace"

becomes Shadrach "Command of Aku"

Mishael "Who is God?"

becomes Meshach "Who is Aku?"

Azariah "The LORD helps"

becomes Abednego "Servant of Nego"



# Daniel 1:8

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.



# Daniel 10:3

I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.



“... we believe that the motivation lies more closely connected to the story. Daniel and his three friends are in a process of education and preparation for service. Their minds as well as their bodies are being fed by the Babylonian court. If they prosper, then to whom should they attribute their development and success? The Babylonians. However, by refusing to eat the food of the king, they know it is not the king who is responsible for the fact that “they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food” (1:15). Their robust appearance, usually attained by a rich fare of meats and wine, is miraculously achieved through a diet of vegetables. Only God could have done it” – Longman, Daniel, 2011



10 but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your[c] food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.”

11 Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and

Azariah, 12 “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then

compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance

with what you see.” 14 So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.



<sup>15</sup> At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. <sup>16</sup> So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.





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17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

18 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. 20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom. 21 And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.



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**“But the example of Daniel and his friends also confronted the ancient people of God. These stories reminded them that living in a foreign place was not easy. Enticement to assimilate lurked everywhere, and the Israelites — in exile because they had become indistinguishable from idolatrous neighbors — knew how susceptible they were to such temptation. How much more vigilance would be needed in a foreign land! And yet Daniel and his friends learned Babylonian ways better than their peers. They learned, God forbid, divination. They assumed Babylonian names. They were enculturated into an idolatrous culture with what looked to be little resistance. And yet, as the book demonstrates, they did not sell out, and the line they drew between themselves and Babylonian ways enabled them to bear witness to God in a place that would not otherwise have known him”** Widder, Daniel, 2016



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4. We are to remember that in every situation, God is in control
5. No matter what happens, God will not abandon his people





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