

Backbone
Week 1

Has culture really changed that much in the last 4,000 years?

Leviticus 18:21 ²¹ “Do not permit any of your children to be offered as a sacrifice to Molech, for you must not bring shame on the name of your God. I am the Lord.

Deuteronomy 12:31 You must not worship the Lord your God the way they worship their gods. When they worship, they do all kinds of evil things the Lord hates. They even burn up their children in the fire as sacrifices to their gods.

Daniel looked like he was on the wrong side of history, but instead he changed history because he had the BACKBONE enough to stand up for what he believe in, in the face of opposition.

Daniel 1:1-7 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia^[a] and put in the treasure house of his god.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.^[b] 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.

This was the indoctrination process of these teenagers.

⁶ Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷ The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

Their new Babylonian names.

- The name Daniel (meaning *God is my judge*) was changed to Belteshazzar (meaning *Bel’s prince*).
- The name Hannaniah (meaning *Beloved by the LORD*) was changed to Shadrach (meaning *Illumined by Sun-god*).
- The name Mishael (meaning *Who is as God*) was changed to Meshach (meaning *Who is like Venus*).
- The name Azariah (meaning *The LORD is my help*) was changed to Abed-Nego (meaning *Servant of Nego*).

Daniel when put in a situation to choose to honor God or give in to culture he chose God and remained faithful.

Daniel 1:7 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

The ancient Hebrew word **defile** carries the thought of *polluting* or *staining*. Daniel didn't want to pollute or stain his life by eating the Kings meet.

There were three things that they did to Daniel but only one that he objected to.

- Daniel did not object to them calling him another name.
- Daniel did not object to the Babylonian education.
- Daniel *did* object to the food from the king's table

Daniel and his friends considered the king's food polluted for at least three reasons.

- First, it undoubtedly was not properly prepared the way God's word says to.
- Second, it was sacrificed to idols.
- Third, eating the king's food implied that you agreed with Babylon's cultural.

Daniel 1:8-20

How did Daniel have the backbone to conquer and overcome this difficult temptation and show God's greatness?

- 1. Daniel had decided in his heart before he was ever tempted and pressured that he would not compromise.**
- 2. Daniel knew going into this that it would cost him something, yet he was willing to sacrifice.**