

Daniel 1

Loving Navigation

I. Deportation: Cream of the Crop

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

- **Nebuchadnezzar:** "Nebu protects the crown"
 1. **Nebu:** First called "Scribe and minister of Marduk"
 - God of wisdom and writing
 - Related to Magi; i.e. wise men from the east

Worshiped Education as a god

- Knowledge is power? Later Gnosticism [Free-Masons, JW's]
- **Jehoiakim:** 18th King of Judah 610-599bc second son of Josiah
 1. Placed on throne of Judah by the **Pharaoh of Egypt?**
 2. **Name:** "Yahweh raises up" but ...Pharaoh did.
 3. **In 3rd year of Jehoiakim Nebuchadnezzar lays siege:**

Military operation in which enemy forces surround a town or building, cutting off essential supplies, with the aim of compelling the surrender of those inside.

- **Siege Towers:** Date back to 11th Century bc



2 And the **Lord gave Jehoiakim** king of Judah into [Nebuchadnezzar's] hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

- **Lord gave to Nebuchadnezzar :** Judgment for Judah; A Gift for the Pagan King
 1. Jehoiakim King of Judah and other Jews deported
 2. Articles taken from the Temple of God
 3. **Carried to Shinar** [Babylon] to the temple of his *god*

- [Years earlier] **Hezekiah:** 13th King of Judah was 716-687bc
 1. Sick unto death [2 Kings 20]
 2. Prays for longer life. Lord answers grants **15 more yrs. to live**
 - During these added years he has a visitor:

Isaiah 39:1 At that time **Merodach-Baladan** the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that he had been sick and had recovered.

- **Merodach-Baladan:** Great Grandfather of Nebuchadnezzar

2 And Hezekiah was pleased with them, and showed them the house of his treasures—the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory—all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them. 3 Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah, and said to him, “What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?” So Hezekiah said, “They came to me from a far country, from Babylon.” 4 And he said, “What have they seen in your house?” So Hezekiah answered, “They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them.” 5 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the Lord of hosts: 6 ‘Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, **shall be carried to Babylon**; nothing shall be left,’ says the Lord. 7 ‘And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and **they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king** of Babylon.’” 8 So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the Lord which you have spoken is good!” For he said, “At least there will be peace and truth in my days.”

- Fulfillment years later

2 Kings 24 In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his vassal for **three years**. Then [Jehoiakim] turned and rebelled against [Nebuchadnezzar]. 2 And the Lord sent against him raiding bands of Chaldeans, bands of Syrians, bands of Moabites, and bands of the people of Ammon; He sent them against Judah **to destroy it**, according to the word of the Lord which He had spoken by His servants the prophets.³ Surely at the commandment of the Lord *this* came upon Judah, to remove *them* from His sight because of the **sins of Manasseh**, according to all that he had done, ⁴ and also because of the innocent blood that he had shed; for he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, which the Lord would not pardon.

3 Reasons for God’s Judgment of His People

1. **Not following His commands:** No Land Sabbath [Reason for 70 years]
2. **Pride:** Hezekiah’s showing Nebuchadnezzar’s grandfather “his” treasure
3. **Shedding innocent blood:** Manasseh

2 Kings 21:16 ... Manasseh shed very much innocent blood until he had **filled Jerusalem from one end to another**; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD.

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Not following God’s commands: | Cursed |
| 2. Pride: | Fall |
| 3. Shedding Innocent Blood: | Laid waste. |

Proverbs 6:16 [One of the things the Lord hates; Hate is sometimes a family value] These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying

tongue, **Hands that shed innocent blood**,¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil,¹⁹ A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

Psalms 94:20 Shall the throne of iniquity, which **devises evil by law**, Have fellowship with You? 21 They gather together against the life of the righteous, And **condemn innocent blood**.

Jeremiah 22:17 [*Jeremiah declares why God's judgment is coming by hand of Nebuchadnezzar. "You think God I don't see?..."*] "Yet your eyes and your heart are for nothing but your covetousness, For **shedding innocent blood**, And practicing oppression and violence."

Psalms 106:36 They served their idols, Which became a snare to them. 37 They even sacrificed their sons And their daughters to demons,³⁸ And **shed innocent blood**, The blood of their sons and daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was polluted with blood.³⁹ Thus they were defiled by their own works, And played the harlot by their own deeds.⁴⁰ Therefore the wrath of the Lord was kindled against His people, So that He abhorred His own inheritance.⁴¹ And He gave them into the hand of the Gentiles, And **those who hated them ruled over them**.⁴² Their enemies also oppressed them, And they were brought into subjection under their hand.

Are we ripe for judgment...has it already begun?

- Given into the hands of those who hate us? Iran, Russia, China, Islam?
- **Nebuchadnezzar:**
 1. **Given** the King of Judah
 2. **Given** articles from the Temple
 3. **Given** the Jews deported to Babylon
- **Israel laid waste by 3 Babylonian invasions:** 605, 597, and 587bc
- **Events leading to 1st invasion:**
 1. Pharaoh of Egypt invaded Babylon
 2. Young prince Nebuchadnezzar defeats the Egyptians at Charchemish
 3. Pursued their fleeing army all the way down to the Sinai
 4. **On the way back for kicks...**
 - Subdues Jerusalem who was loyal to the Pharaoh of Egypt
 - Lays siege
 - Deports some Jews from Judah to Babylon...

3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to **bring some of the children of Israel** and some of the king's descendants and some of the **nobles**, 4 young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.

- **Nebuchadnezzar calls Master of Eunuchs?** Servant of the King
- **Bring Israelites:** Descendants of Jewish King and Nobles...

Bring me the Best. Bring me Royalty. Cream of the Crop of Israel

1. Young
 2. Men
 3. No physical blemish
 4. Good looking
 5. Gifted in all wisdom
 6. Having [possessing]knowledge
 7. Quick to understand [not cloth eared]
 8. Ability to serve in Kings Palace; Adapt to environment
 9. Easily teachable:
 - Language of Chaldeans
 - Literature of Chaldeans
- **Brought to the Palace:** Cream of the crop of Israel!

5 And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.

- **Kings orders:**
 1. **Sign them up for Three years Orientation** [training]
 2. Give them Daily provision of king's delicacies; Food and Wine
 3. Purpose: To serve before the king

SUMMARY: Deportation of Cream of the Crop: A judgment of God's people and a gift for pagan king:

- **Habakkuk complaint of his own people: When will you judge?**

Habakkuk 1:2 O Lord, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, Violence! "And You will not save.³ Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; There is strife, and contention arises.⁴ Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds. [USA?]

- **God responds:** Your not going to believe this!

Habakkuk 1:6 ... indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation Which marches through the breadth of the earth, To possess dwelling places that are not theirs.⁷ They are terrible and dreadful...

- Habakkuk complains..."Why Babylon" they are worse sinners than us!
- **God responds:** I will deal with them later.

1 Peter 4:17 For the time has come for judgment to **begin at the house of God**; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

- Too late for us?

2 Chronicles 7:14 ...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and

will forgive their sin and heal their land.

II. Purposed in Heart: Self-Discipline

- Time to purpose in our heart is **before the trial/temptation/sucker punch**

6 Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 7 To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

- Ashpenaz Chief of the Eunuchs gave them names
 1. Daniel: God is my Judge
 2. Hananiah Beloved by the LORD
 3. Mishael Who is as God)
 4. Azariah The LORD is my help

Belteshazzar: Bel's prince
Shadrach: Illumined by Sun-god
Meshach: Who is like Venus
Abed-Nego: Servant of Nego
- Does not matter what people may call us. What God calls us that matters:
 1. Child of God
 2. Son/Daughter of the King
 3. Friend of Jesus
 4. Saint
 5. Brother of Jesus
 6. Beloved
 7. Pearl of Great Price
 8. Treasure
 9. New Creation
 10. Righteousness of God
 11. Chosen, Holy and Blameless in His sight

Revelation 2:17 [Pergamos] "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a **new name** written which no one knows except him who receives it."

- **Food/Name Change:** TOTAL Indoctrination into Babylon; i.e. Satanic the world system
 1. Feed on what the world offers
 2. Identify ("name") ourselves in reference to the world
 3. Educate ourselves in the ways of the world [Guzic]

8 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**.

What can they do? They feel all the pressure and they hear all the familiar arguments that any person hears today to try to get them to give up acting on the basis of faith. They

surely hear the argument, in whatever form it took in those days, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." "Everybody else is doing this; what difference does it make what you eat? So what if you have a ham sandwich with these Babylonians? What's the difference?" After all, they are prisoners in a country far away from home. Their own country has been laid waste. Who will know, or care, what they do? [Steadman]

- Daniel **PURPOSED IN HIS HEART**
- Still under Jewish Law: He would not defile himself!
- Defile; Lit *Pollute*
 1. Not Kosher
 2. Offered to Idols; Demons

Romans 14:22 Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

Self-Discipline:

1 Timothy 4:7 ...have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness... 8 for **bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things**, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

2 Timothy 1:7... God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and **discipline**.

- After Jesus witnessed to Samaritan woman at the well HE was not thinking of food...

John 4:31 ... His disciples urged [Jesus], saying, "Rabbi, eat."32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know."33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?"34 Jesus said to them, "**My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.**"

- **Purpose in his heart:** Threat of slow roasting as guy named Ahab in Jer 29:22
- Ashpenaz takes note of their devotion to God and courage before men

9 Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.

- **Favor and Goodwill of his supervisor**

Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,4 And so find **favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.'**

Luke 2:52 ...Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

- **Onlookers expect** a disciplined life from man/woman of God: Holy/Separated
- Not everyone will show us favor for doing standing for God:

"Be ready for a bad name; be willing to be called a bigot; be prepared for the loss of friendships; be prepared for anything so long as you can stand fast by Him who bought you

with His precious blood." [Spurgeon]

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts [Purpose in your heart], and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

- Daniel asks his new friend Ashpenaz for help: Bring me some Kosher food please

1:10 And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would **endanger my head** before the king."

You're asking me to endanger my head?

- **Fear of King Nebuchadnezzar justified?**
 1. Murdered King Zedekiah's children then gouged out king's eyes
 2. Slow roasted a ruler of Judah named Ahab
- Endanger my head? I am quite fond of my head

11 So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12 "Please **test your servants** for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants."

- **Daniel said to his steward** [immediate supervisor, not Ashpenaz] favor also?
 1. **Please Test:** Respectful
 2. **Test your Servants:** Let's do a trial run. We are your servants
 3. **Ten days** with just Kosher food [Veggies and water]
 4. **Compare** Kosher food guys to Caviar guys after ten days

Diplomacy: You decide...**Do what you think is best...as you see fit.**

- **Daniel uses Wisdom:** Knowledge applied.
- "Catch more flies w/ honey than you do with vinegar"

James 3:17 ...the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Luke 16:8 [Jesus rebukes God's people for not using wisdom] "For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light."

- Daniel was the standard of wisdom in his age:

Ezekiel 28:3 [To the King of Tyre with sarcasm...] "**Behold, you are wiser than Daniel!**"

14 So [the steward] consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.

- **Consented:** Buy in. He would bring Kosher food at the risk of his head!

SUMMARY: Purposed in Heart. Self-Discipline: Time to purpose in our heart is before the trial. Habits that cultivate a relationship with God are paramount: **War is work!**

- Up early in the Word
- Ask for Holy Spirit: Wisdom, strength, endurance, faith
- Pray at all times
- Confess sin immediately; clean slate

Purpose in his heart ...Before the trial Armor of God ready for war!

Daniel 6:10 [After edict was signed which would lead to Daniel in lions den] Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, **he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.**

III. God's Favor

15 And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. 16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

- **Reward for self discipline. Denying self:**
 1. Better shape for service than others who indulged
 - Fraps?
 - Meds?
 - Laziness?
 2. Diet helped Daniel hear God:
 - Closer to God through fasting. Denying flesh
 - Hearing God more clearly
 3. Steward is won over by results:
 - Salvation of others. Jesus: "My food is to do the will of God"
- Reward for self-discipline empowered by God's Holy Spirit:

2 Timothy 1:7 ...God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. [NASB "Discipline"]

17 As for these four young men, God gave them **knowledge and skill** in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

"...if Christians would only give over and above their reasonable service, the Lord would give **over and above the usual blessing.**" [Brice]

- **All Four:** God Gave...Knowledge and Skill
- Grace: Under the found [self-discipline] where blessing come out
 1. **All Literature:** Comprehension if knowledge
 2. **All Wisdom:** Application of knowledge
- **Daniel:** Separated as one with understanding:
 1. All Visions
 2. All Dreams

This shows that purity of heart and faithfulness to God come before enlightenment in divine mysteries. Daniel will later receive great revelation, but now he simply shows himself a dedicated follower of God. [Guzic]

18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

- End of the days; i.e. 3 Years Training/Indoctrination
- **Chief of Eunuchs** brings in his prized men...

19 Then the king **interviewed** them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king.

- **Interview for the Palace Job:** None like the four!

20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

- The 4 boys pass Babylonian College SAT's:
 1. **All matters of Wisdom and Understanding**

v. 4 [They needed the]...ability to serve in the king's palace, and [be taught] the language and literature of the Chaldeans.

- **Wisdom and Understanding:** Not just knowing formula but **WHY it works**
- **10 times Better** than ALL:
 1. Magician's
 2. Astrologers

21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.

- Thus; therefore... because he was an asset to every succeeding leader
 1. Daniel continued 72 years in Babylon even after its conquest by Persia

SUMMARY: God's Favor: Daniel continued to serve the True God, the God of Israel even in Babylon:

Romans 12:2 ... do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- Daniel and his friends were *in Babylon* but not *of Babylon*
- **John 17:** His disciples are *in the world* but should not be *of the world*