

Daniel - "When Culture and Conviction Collide"
When Culture Shifts – Respond the Right Way
August 6, 2023

Daniel 1:1-6 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 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 and put in the treasure house of his god. 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**—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. 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. Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: **Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.**

Daniel 1:7 The chief official gave them **new names**: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

Facts about Culture:

1. Confuse our _____.

- ✓ Daniel: "God is my judge" to Belteshazzar: "_____, protect the King"
- ✓ Hananiah: "Yahweh has been gracious" to Shadrach: "I am _____ of God"
- ✓ Mishael: "Who is what God is?" to Meshach: "I am _____, contemptible & humiliated"
- ✓ Azariah: "Yahweh has helped" to Abednego: "Servant of _____"

Key Thought: When culture shifts, we must know _____.

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before **I formed you in the womb** I knew you, **before you were born** I set you apart..."

2. Compromise our _____.

Daniel 1:8 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.

Key Thought: When culture shifts, we must know what we _____.

Joshua 24:14-15 "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. **Throw away the gods** your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.**"

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3. Test our _____.

Daniel 1:9-14 Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel, but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your 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.” Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, “**Please test your servants** for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. 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.” So, **he agreed to this and tested them** for ten days.

Key Thought: When culture shifts you must _____ the _____ way.

John 1:14 The Word became **flesh** and made his **dwelling among us**. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, **FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH**.

- ✓ Grace is God’s _____.
- ✓ Truth is God’s _____.

Key Thought: Without grace, we are _____. Without truth, we are _____.

Key Thought: Without grace we become _____. Without truth, we become _____.

Key Thought: Grace _____ us to be free. Truth _____ us free.

Key Thought: Grace without truth is _____. Truth without grace is _____.

Key Thought: Grace and truth is _____.

Walk Away: Freely give God’s _____. We need to hold high God’s _____.

Daniel 1:15-20 At the end of the ten days **they looked healthier and better** nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. So, the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. 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. At the end of the time set by the king to bring them in, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. **The king talked with them**, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, **he found them ten times better** than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

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