

EXILE: Resolved to Holiness
Daniel 1:1-21

I. Daniel 1:1-2 – God _____ despite the Sins of His people:

A. 1:1 – Historical Context

1. *Gods people are in spiritual decline*

B. 1:2 – Theological Context

1. *The Lord's active hand: (Dan. 1:2, 9, 17; Jer. 29:4-7)*

II. Daniel 1:3-7 – Culture Wars & the Clash of World Views

A. A worldview is:

- A comprehensive view of life through which we think, understand, and judge, and which determines our approach to life and meaning.
- Our worldview is foundationally shaped by one of life's greatest questions:
_____?

B. What is the strategy of Babylon?

1. 1:3 – _____
2. 1:4 – _____
3. 1:5 – _____
4. 1:6-7 – _____

C. New names given:

- 1) **Daniel** – means “*God is my judge*”
 - Belteshazzar – “*Bel protect his life*”
- 2) **Hananiah** – means “*the Lord shows grace*”
 - Shadrach – “*command of Aku*”
- 3) **Mishael** – means “*Who is like God?*”
 - Meshach – “*Who is as Aku is?*”
- 4) **Azariah** – means “*The Lord is my help*”
 - Changed to Abednego – “*Servant of Nebo*”

III. Daniel 1:8-14 – Be Resolved to Not Compromise

A. 1:8 - _____ the Temptation to Defile Yourself

1. Resolved /determined = literally “*set his heart on*”
2. Food and wine –
 - issue of eating unclean foods (Lev. 11:1-23)
 - Food offered to idols (Deut. 6:13-15)
3. Daniel and his friends were forced to be in Babylon, but they were resolved to not let Babylon get into them

B. 1:9-10 – God gives _____

C. 1:11-14 – God gives _____

IV. 1:15-21 – Trust God To _____ Faithfulness

- A. 1:17, 20 – God blessed them _____
- B. 1:17 – God blessed them _____
- C. 1:18-21 – God blessed them _____

Life Group Discussion:

1. In what ways do you see the sovereignty of God play out in difficult moments in your life?
2. Think about your own world view. What beliefs or assumptions characterize how you view the world?
3. Now think about your culture as a whole. What characterizes the general cultures worldview?
4. How have you experienced the challenges of isolation, indoctrination, assimilation, or confusion? How did you fight to remain faithful to Christ?
5. What does it mean to be “defiled” by the world? What are areas do you feel believers, face the most challenging battles in staying faithful? What advice would you give a new believer, to stay faithful?

Key:

II. Works

II.

A.

- Is there a God?

B

1. Isolation

2. Indoctrination

3. Assimilation

4. Confusion

III.

A. Resist

B. favor

C. wisdom

IV. Honor

A. mentally

B. spiritually

C. socially