

Daniel: Living as Exiles

Daniel 1

Daniel 1:1-2: "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 gave Jehoiakim king of Judah his 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."

Isaiah 39:6-7: "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. 'And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs (servants) in the palace of the king of Babylon.'"

"God is sovereign"

- I. God Gave Nebuchadnezzar Victory (1:1-2)
- II. God Gave Favor to Daniel and His Friends (1:3-16)
- III. God Gave Ability and Success to Daniel and His Friends (1:17-20)
- IV. God Gave Daniel a Long Life and Ministry (1:21)

Daniel 1:3-4: "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, 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."

Daniel 1:5-7: "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. Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 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."

Daniel – "God is my judge" → Belteshazzar – "May Bel protect his life"

Hananiah – "God is gracious" → Shadrach – "Under the command of Aku"

Mishael – "Who is like God?" → Meshach – "Who is what Aku is?"

Azariah – "Yahweh has helped us" → Abednego – "Servant of Nego"

Daniel 1:8: "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."

If you don't know what your lines are sexually, morally, or relationally, be careful because the world will try to squeeze you into a role.

1. Daniel was a man of purpose (Daniel 1:8).

1 Corinthians 6:12: "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.

Romans 13:14: "...make no provision for the flesh..."

2. Daniel was a man of God's Word (Daniel 1:20; 6:28).

Proverbs 16:20: "One who pays attention to the word will find good and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord."

Daniel 1:20: "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."

Daniel 6:28: "Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian."

3. Daniel was a man of worship (Daniel 2:19-23).

Daniel 2:19-23: "So Daniel blessed the God of heaven... "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. "I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king's demand."

4. Daniel was a man of character (Daniel 6:4).

Daniel 6:4: "So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him."

5. Daniel was a man of prayer (Daniel 6:10; 9:3).

Daniel 6:10: "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 3 times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God...."

6. Daniel was a man of humility (Daniel 6:22).

Daniel 6:22: "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."

7. Daniel was a man of prophecy (Daniel 12:4;9).

Daniel 12:4,9: "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase... And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."

Daniel 1:9-16: “Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. 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.” So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, “Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. 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.” So he consented with them in this matter and tested them ten days. 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. Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink and gave them vegetables.”

Proverbs 4:23: “Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.”

“A heart that loves the Lord, trusts the Lord, and therefore obeys the Lord and has no difficulty making the right choices and trusting God to take care of the consequences. It has well been said that faith is not believing in spite of evidence – that’s superstition – but obeying in spite of consequences.”

- Warren Wiersbe

Romans 12:18: "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Proverbs 16:7: When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Daniel 1:17-21: "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. 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. Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore, they served before the king. 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. Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.

"Training and education are very important, but they are not substitutes for the ability and wisdom that only God can give." - **Warren Wiersbe**