

Unshakable—Week 1

Living for Jesus in a Culture of Compromise

If we trade our convictions for convenience, we risk losing the very foundation of who we are in Christ.

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

... but there is a God in heaven ... Daniel 2:28 NIV

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—⁴young 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. ⁵The 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.

Daniel 1:3-5 NIV

Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. Daniel 1:6-7 NIV

- **Daniel: God (Elohim) is my judge**
- **Belteshazzar: Bel protect the king**

The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. ... Daniel 1:5 NIV

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. Daniel 1:8 NIV

Daniel was determined ... Daniel 1:8 NLT

Daniel made up his mind ... Daniel 1:8 NASB

Daniel purposed in his heart ... Daniel 1:8 KJV

Do you want to make a point, or do you want to make a difference?

... speak the truth in love ... Ephesians 4:15 NLT

“Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” ¹⁴So [the chief official] agreed to this and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food.

Daniel 1:12-15 NIV

The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah ... Daniel 1:19 NIV

... but there is a God in heaven ... Daniel 2:28 NIV

TALK IT OVER

Read **Daniel 1:8**. What do you think it means to be “undefiled”? How do you think this set Daniel apart from the other men?

Share about a time when you had to choose between your convictions and what was convenient. Which option did you choose, and what did you learn from that experience?

Is there an area of your life where you’re tempted to follow the world’s influence? Talk about ways you can stay rooted in God’s will.