



BACKGROUND

¹In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ²And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand ...

³Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites ... 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 ... ⁶Among 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.

⁸But 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. ⁹Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, ¹⁰but 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."

¹¹Daniel then said to the guard ... ¹²"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." ... ¹⁵At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food ...

¹⁷To 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.

¹⁸At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. ²⁰In 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 ...

- 605 BC – Nebuchadnezzar's first assault on Jerusalem
- Babylon – One of the seven wonders of the ancient world - built to honor a Babylonian god
- Daniel and his friends are taken captive to Babylon, a city full of idol worship, sex and violence



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THEME: AGAINST ALL ODDS

THRIVING WHEN THE PRESSURE IS ON!

CHAPTER	LOCATION	PRESSURE
DANIEL 1	In a New Country	Pressure to Conform <i>Will Culture Shape My Character?</i>
DANIEL 3	In a Fiery Furnace	Pressure to Compromise <i>Will Trials Destroy My Commitments</i>
DANIEL 6	In the Lion's Den	Pressure to Concede <i>Will Comfort Erode My Impact?</i>

WHEN THE PRESSURE IS ON...

"But Daniel **RESOLVED** not to defile himself..." 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."

DANIEL 1:8

- A. New Home (vv. 1-2)
- B. New Knowledge (vv. 3-4)
- C. New Diets (v. 5)
- D. New Names (vv.6-7)

Daniel - "God is my judge"	Beltshazzar - "Bel protect his life" - Bel was the name of a Babylonian god
Haniah - "Jehovah is gracious"	Shadrach - "The command of the moon god" - a Babylonian god
Mishael - "Who is like God?"	Meshach - "Who is like Aku" - one of the heathen gods
Azariah - "Jehovah is my helper"	Abed-nego - "The servant of Nego" - another heathen god

"The grass withers and the flowers fall. But the word of our God stands forever."

ISAIAH 40:8



"But Daniel resolved **not to defile himself...**" DANIEL 1:8

2 MARKS OF INTEGRITY

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"They could find no corruption in him, because he was trust-worthy and neither **corrupt** nor **negligent.**" DANIEL 6:4

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"... 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 ... '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.'" DANIEL 1:10-13



"Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 18 He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon." DANIEL 2:17-18

