

Daniel Part 1 HANDOUT

2.22.26

“Resolved Before the Test Comes”

You drift into compromise... **You resolve into holiness.**

DANIEL 1:1-2 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, 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.

- Babylon didn't just conquer with swords. **They conquered with strategy.**

DANIEL 1:3-5 ³Then 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 was likely a teenager at this time—probably **14–17 years old**.

- Remove them from home / Re-educate them / Rename them / Reprogram them

KEY THOUGHT: Culture Always Tries to Rename What God Has Already Defined

DANIEL 1:6–7 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.

Daniel's Hebrew name means “God is my judge,” but he was renamed **Belteshazzar**, meaning “Bel protects his life.” Why? ***Because identity drives behavior.***

KEY THOUGHT: Conviction Is Built Before It Is Tested

DANIEL 1:8 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.

Spiritual strength is pre-decided. If you don't decide your convictions in peace, you will surrender them in pressure..

DANIEL 1:8–14 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 whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, 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." ¹⁴So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

He trusted God enough to act wisely.

- God gave.
- Faithfulness attracts divine favor.

Babylon thought it conquered Judah...**But God was still in control.**

Daniel wasn't in Babylon by accident.

KEY THOUGHT: Every compromise trains your soul.

Daniel 1:15–21 ¹⁵At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

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.

²¹And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

LIFE POINT: If you don't pre-decide your convictions, culture will decide them for you.