



Outline of Daniel 1: Captivity & Court Service by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

Strange Surroundings, verses 1-2

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

2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into 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.

These events are preceded by, and conclude, the following Scriptures:

1 Chronicles 3:15-16;

2 Kings 23:34-24:19; 2 Chronicles 36:4-10;

Jeremiah 1:3;

Jeremiah 22:18-30;

Jeremiah 24:1-10;

Jeremiah 25:1-38;

Jeremiah 26:1-24;

Jeremiah 27:1-22;

Jeremiah 28:1-17;

Jeremiah 35:1-19;

Jeremiah 36:1-32;

Jeremiah 37:1-4;

Jeremiah 45:1-5;

Jeremiah 46:1-2;

Jeremiah 52:1-30;

Daniel 1:1-2

"Shinar" old name for Babylon (**Genesis 10:10; 11:2**).

2. Choice Communicators, verses 3-7

3 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,

4 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.

5 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.

6 Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

7 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."

a. **"Eunuchs"** – Isaiah had prophesied this to Hezekiah (**2 Kings 20:16-18**)

Matthew 19:12 – there are 3 ways to become a eunuch;

Corruption among Israelites noted by presence of eunuchs:

Leviticus 21:16-23;

b. **Young, perfect physique, handsome, intelligent** ("gifted")

c. **Names changed to protect the innocent(?)**

"Daniel" (El is my Judge) to "**Belteshazzar**" (protected treasure of Bel);

"Hananiah" (Yah is gracious to me) to "**Shadrach**" (Aku commands);

"Mishael" (he comes from El) to "**Meshach**" (belongs to goddess Sheshach);

"Azariah" (Yah is my Helper) to "**Abed-Nego**" (servant of AbuNego).

d. **The King provided them the best he had to offer for their training, as every good school should.**

3. Verifying Vegans, verses 8-13

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.

9 Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.

10 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.'

11 So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

12 'Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink.

13 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.'

a. **Daniel was consistent with his beliefs**, as in **Daniel 6:10**.

Circumstances changed nothing about his practice.

b. **There was no rebellion against the king's menu**, but personal moral judgment prevailed.

4. Purity Prevails, verses 14-16

14 So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.

15 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.

16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables."

a. **No "artificial" appearance needed**, they actually were healthier.

b. **Fancy foods and wine are not a good diet**,

commercial notwithstanding to the contrary.

c. **The government "system" was responsive** to what was actually better for the students.

5. Promotion to Prominence, verses 17-21

17 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.

18 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.

19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king.

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.

21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.

- a. These 4 were not necessarily the only ones trained,**
but the best of those trained (**verse 15**).
- b. According to verse 5, they had completed 3 years of this "schooling."**
- c. God's gift was to enhance their willingness to follow His cleanliness laws:**
Under Moses, a distinction between clean and unclean (**Leviticus 11:43-47**)
Jewish Christians still sensitive to the distinction (**1 Corinthians 8:4-9**)
Gentile Christians should avoid idolatrous meats (**Acts 15:19-20**)

= Daniel's Dens =

1. Nebuchadnezzar's "Conversion" to "The Most High" in 4 steps:

Chapter 1 – Superior Purity

Chapter 2 – Superior Prophecy

Chapter 3 – Superior Protection

Chapter 4 – Superior Power

(Interesting contrast to Nebuchadnezzar's response to that of Pharaoh when faced down by the Highest!)

2. God always improves our best efforts with His blessing

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

3. Daniel stood firm on God's Word, even when the king was willing to cut it up and destroy it. Daniel 1:1; Jeremiah 36:9-32

4. Christians must be more concerned with what comes out of their mouths than what goes in! Mark 7:14-23