

Daniel 1:1-21 **Daniel and his friends introduced**

Daniel and His Friends Obey God (cf. 2 Kings 24:10-17)

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.

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 Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

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."

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.

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.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Timing and Situation

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

And Adoney (the Lord) gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of Elohiym (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. [Daniel 1:1-2]

✧ Jehoiakim reigned in Jerusalem eleven years, so the Babylonian siege was early on in his reign. [2 Kings 23:34-36, 2 Chronicles 36:4-7]

✧ The first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon was the fourth year of Jehoiakim king of Judah. [Jeremiah 25:1]

✧ The timing of the first captivities carried to Babylon with treasures from the Temple is uncertain.

✧ 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 1:3-4]

✧ Nebuchadnezzar chose the best of the captives to be trained to serve in the royal courts.

✧ 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. [Daniel 1:5]

✧ They had all been made eunuchs to 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 **Beltshazzar**; to Hananiah, **Shadrach**; to Mishael, **Meshach**; and to Azariah, **Abed-Nego.** [Daniel 1:6-7]

✧ Daniel was among the first to be taken captive to Babylon, probably Ezekiel was carried into captivity about the same time and they probably knew each other.

Daniel and His Friends Distinguish Themselves to Obey God (cf. 2 Kings 24:10-17)

✧ 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. [Daniel 1:8]

✧ Daniel took a stand on the dietary laws based on his faith in the God of Israel.

✧ Now Elohiym (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. [\[Daniel 1:9-16\]](#)

✧ At Daniel's request they were tested for ten days and were visibly better than those who ate the king's delicacies and drank his wine.

✧ God was clearly working with His faithful people to gain honor through their diet.

✧ **17** As for these four young men, **Elohiym (God) gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.** [\[Daniel 1:17\]](#)

✧ Not only were they physically better, but God gave them special abilities.

✧ 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, Michael, 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. [\[Daniel 1:18-21\]](#)

✧ God honored their faithfulness and gave them abilities **ten times better** than the **magicians and astrologers** in the king's realm.