



DANIEL ONE

The first chapter of Daniel sets the historical setting for this book.

- Babylon has taken Jerusalem captive. The year is 605 B.C.
- This was not a surprise
 - Moses had warned about this (Deut 28:15, 32, 49-50)
 - Isaiah had warned about this 150 years earlier (Isa 39:6-7)
 - Habakkuk, written at the time of Daniel, warned about this (1:5-7)

The vessels of God's house were taken to Shinar

- This is where the tower of Babel was built (Gen 11:2)
- God's vessels were placed in the Babylonian temple (as if a trophy of our god is greater than yours)

- Young people of promise were taken and put through a three year training program

Rather than killing them, the king wanted to change them and use them. They were not treated as "prisoners."

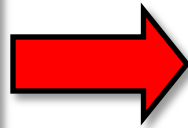
New names, food and customs are introduced to them

- the text follows these "four" - we are not told about the others taken captive

Jewish Names

- "El" - Elohim
- "iah" - Yahweh

Daniel: "God has judged"
 Hananiah: God is gracious
 Mishael: Who is like God
 Azariah: God is my help



Babylonian Names

Belteshazzar: _____, protect the king
 Shadrach: I am _____ of God
 Meshach: I am _____
 Abed-nego: the servant of _____

Culture is trying to
 r_____ you
 Culture is trying to
 r_____ you
 Culture is trying to
 c_____ you

Changing their names:

1. _____ the faith of Israel
2. Put them in a _____ situation
3. The names were connected to Babylonian _____

Changing their names left three impressions:

1. We _____ you
2. You are not in _____ anymore
3. Your God is _____

A. The faith and courage of Daniel is illustrated early

1. He made up his mind (v. 8)

He refused to eat the king's food

- it may have been "unclean" or sacrificed to idols

Daniel was trying to live a life in service to God in a culture that did not share his conviction

Daniel did not have parents telling him what to do. He knew.

- Ps 119:112 "I have inclined my heart to perform Thy statutes"
- Ezra 7:10 "For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel"

2. He spoke up (v. 11)

- this was a "test" (12). Daniel is confident
- Daniel is righteous, yet he is taken captive

- The presence of God is seen in granting favor, knowledge and safety (9, 17)

If we don't make up our mind ahead of time,
 Satan and social pressure _____.
 If you do not know, you'll _____ what others do
 If you do not know, you'll do what is _____
 and _____
 If you do not know, you'll do _____

B. Because of God's blessings, these four served Nebuchadnezzar