

Bible Study

Daniel 1:1-21

Opening Question:

1. What worries you more the future or your present situation? Why?
2. When have you been tempted to compromise to the ways of the world?

Read Daniel 1:1-21

Discussion Questions

1. Observation & reflection
 - (a) What style of writing is this ?
 - (b) What is the tone?
 - (c) What word or idea stands out to you, what did you struggle to understand?
 - (d) What is the theme of the passage?
2. As you read the Daniel 1, look for what the author specifically credits God with. What does this show about God?
3. Why could Daniel and his friends willingly submit to Nebuchadnezzar and his officials?
 - (a) Why did Daniel and his friends not consider Babylonian names, Babylonian schooling, and working as officials of the Babylonian government defiling?
 - (b) What is biblical submission?
4. Why were Daniel and his friends selected by the Babylonians?
5. Why did Ashpenaz change the names of Daniel and his three friends?
6. What specific tactics were used to give these young Jews a new Babylonian orientation?
 - (a) What were they hoping to accomplish?
7. When confronted with the temptation to eat the king's choice food, what did Daniel do?
 - (a) What possible risk did Daniel and his companions face for their refusal to partake of the king's choice food

8. What was it about Daniel and his friends that impressed Nebuchadnezzar?
 - (a) What does this show us about being “in the world but not of it”?
9. What evidences are there in Daniel 1 of God’s sovereignty and of His divine intervention in the affairs of Daniel and his friends?
10. In what way did the Lord help Daniel and honour the faithfulness of four Hebrew boys?

Thought Points

- Israel is living in exile. For decades prophets had been warning Judah that God was going to punish her for her gross sins and rebellion against the Lord.
- The plan to conquer culture through brainwashing and retraining young influencers
- It is easier to stand firm for difficult or unpopular principles with community and accountability partners.
- Choice food from the Kings table were often consecrated to the idols of Babylon
- God created, provides for, and directs every one of our paths.
- Stand uncompromisingly on the truth even in the face of strong pressure to give in to the world’s ways
- Holiness requires commitment
- Wisdom comes from God alone
- The names:

Old Name	Meaning	New Name	Meaning
Daniel	God is my judge	Belteshazzar	Bel (Marduk) protects life
Hananiah	The Lord shows Grace	Shadrach	Under the command of Aku (moon god)
Misahel	Who is like God?	Meshach	Who is like Aku?
Azariah	The Lord helps	Abendego	Servant of Nago (god of learning)

Extra Reading

2 Kings 24-25, Isaiah 39:6-7, Ezekiel 14:20. Ezekiel 28:3, Jeremiah 24:1-10, Jeremiah 29:4-7, Acts 5:29, Revelation 3:5, 12, 20, Matthew 10:32, Proverbs 3:5-8, Proverbs 9:10, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Personal Reflection:

- In what way are you currently feeling pressured by the world?
- What can I learn from Daniel’s approach
- Compare and contrast yourself to Daniel. How are you preparing not only to survive living in an ungodly culture, but thrive as an influence?